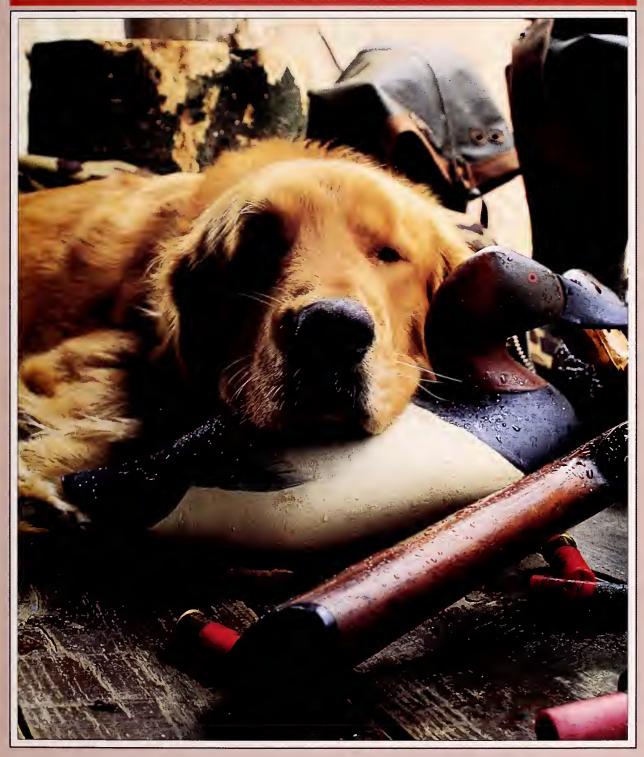
# IRGINIA WILDLIFE SEPTEMBER 1993 ONE DOLLAR



Special Section 1993 Virginia Hunter's Guide

"To change ideas about what the land is for, is to change ideas about what anything is for." —Aldo Leopold.

ne summer, I watched a fencebuilding crew in Montana stringing wire and digging holes for posts. No one used a tape measure or level. When I asked how the posts ended up in a straight line and each line of barbed wire evenly spaced, they laughed.

"City folk." One of them smiled and shook his head. "Look, all you do is measure off your hip to make sure the spacing between each string of wire is even. And just eye the posts to make sure they line up. No need for fancy stuff. Leave that to

the folks back East."

I guess I've always been easily impressed. Every year I marvel at some of my friends who can pull a shotgun out of the gun cabinet where it has lain for the past four or five or six months, hoist it to their shoulder the first day of dove season, and shoot a limit of doves with less than a box of shells. I suppose it must be something they learned early on and never forgot; something learned when the summers were long and uncluttered, and truant officers never seemed to catch boys or girls who hunted.

Once learned, measuring by eye and shooting straight are two of those things which never seem to require a second thought. We forget so many other things, like the names of all the presidents, the capitols of all the states, or the number of feet in a mile. But some things stick and become second nature, like tying shoes, driving a stick-shift, or mounting a shotgun perfectly.

Other things stick, too. There are those feelings which creep into your mind without thinking, and then suddenly are there for life. Like the curious way hunters feel about the land. We don't, we confess, perceive

it as many people do. We don't see land as *property*, with fences marking off this land from another's. Instead, we see only the *possibilities* in the briar-covered hedges, hardwood hollows, and cut cornfields. We see deer passing from one hollow to another, turkeys flying across creeks, and rabbits racing down the road, darting into multiflora rose patches underneath a barbed wire fence. We don't read the names on mailboxes first.

We learn to respect the rights of others, to be sure. We come to realize that individual ownership of land is vital to our culture, and we learn to accept that fact and live honorably within the boundaries. But that doesn't mean we can't have our dreams—for a time.

Because our society is universally tolerant of the young, be they puppies or children, we look the other way when creatures new to the Earth easily vault fences and test the boundaries, skipping in between the trees of land whose owners they've never met.

Eventually we grumble about it and may call parents or owners, but all too often the culprits joyfully slip through holes in fences. They know no lines of demarcation. They haven't yet developed a sense of territoriality with the urge to mark azaleas and fire hydrants; to buy land and build fences. Our young believe they have inherited the Earth.

Only later, when collars are slipped on, or papers signed giving permission here and ownership there, do we acknowledge the boundaries and stay on our own porches. But we can't help feeling like Kings and Queens Of The Mountain once more whenever we find ourselves on a ridgetop in the early morning fog of dawn. We can't help feeling like we need to walk over the next ridge and the next because there just may be some perfect

place for a grouse or a turkey or a deer on the other side of that hill.

For the most part, we catch ourselves on barbed wire and remember our obligations to each other; the cardinal rule to be considerate of the property of others. Some of us, it is true, refuse to be collared and instead risk reputations, friendships, and freedom by ignoring the boundaries. Others, yielding to ill-mannered selfishness, rip down fences and trash the land they walk on. There will always be mongrels and princes among us.

Nevertheless, for those of us who find ourselves admiring first a wooded hollow, then a grape thicket, then a cornfield next to water and woods, and linking them all in our minds without thinking first of the men and women who might own them, perhaps we are not thinking such bad thoughts after all.

Once upon a time, this Earth was all ours. We were the kings and queens of the land as far as we could see. We hunted, we fished, we slept in the grass. We were connected once with something too big to fence in.

We are connected still. Although we can no longer relive our youth; although we must be especially considerate of one another in order to live peaceably in this much-crowded place, we can still bear the responsibility of kings and queens. We have always looked beyond the boundaries, beyond the tiny domains of others. It is time to do what's best for the land.

We cannot ignore what we feel. But as hunters, we know there are many ways to cross a fence.

Jen Siphid



Our special 1993-94 Virginia Hunter's Guide beginning on page 8 includes a species-by-species season forecast, information on public hunting lands, and much more.

# WILDLIFE



**Cover:** The 1993-94 hunting season opens this month. Turn to page 8 for our special hunter's guide. Photo by Soc Clay.

Back cover: Celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 25. Take time to get out in the woods! Photo by Bill Lea.

## Features.

4 A Season of Squirrels by Gerald Almy There's never been just one way to hunt squirrels in Virginia. From still hunting and stand hunting to floating rivers for them, squirrel hunting is a thrill that lasts all season.

## 8 1993-94 Virginia Hunter's Guide

Licenses Required Fees and Special Hunting Regulations Hunting Seasons Summary Where to Hunt

Game Department Lands
National Forests
Cooperative Hunting Areas
Corporate Timberlands
Additional Sporting Opportunites
Resources
Hunting Season Outlook

## September Journal

28 News 32 Boating Safety 31 Recipes 33 Photo Tips

Dedicated to the Conservation of Virginia's Wildlife and Natural Resources



# A Season of Squirrels

There's never been just one way to hunt squirrels in Virginia. From still hunting and stand hunting to floating rivers for them, squirrel hunting is a thrill that lasts all season.

by Gerald Almy

ne of my favorite activities for a cold late autumn morning is stalking a quiet hardwood forest for gray and fox squirrels. Frost sparkles from bordering meadows as leaves crack loose from trees and rattle to the earth, and the forest has a lean, spartan look that allows you to spot your



Squirrels are Virginia hunters' favorite quarry. They can be liunted most everywhere in the Commonwealth from September or October through January.

quarry from a distance and execute the final stalk.

But stand hunting has its charm, too, particularly in early fall. Scouting skills are put into play before the season to find abundant mast, leaves upturned, claw marks on trunks and chewed nut husks. A choice location in a grove of oaks or hickories is taken before first light paints the autumn woods in a golden glow. Then there is rustling in the treetops, scampering squirrels and consistent shooting if the spot is well chosen.

These aren't the only kinds of squirrel hunting, though. Another option that appeals is floating rivers. It's something we do all summer for smallmouths and panfish, so it seems only natural to extend this into the hunting season as well. And there is perhaps no more relaxing or productive way to take bushytails than floating five or six miles of river in a canoe or johnboat, watching for foxes and gravs gathering nuts or scurrying up the trunks of sycamores and oaks along shore. The riparian habitat is rich with hardwoods and often borders cornfields. And the river itself provides a silent, unobtrusive means to sneak up on this quarry which seldom ex-

pects danger from water.

That, in a nutshell, is one of the greatest things about squirrel hunting—the variety of methods that can be used and the broad range of experiences it offers. Certainly there are other ways to pursue squirrels, but the three described above are among the most rewarding you can use for Virginia's most popular small game animal. Each offers its own special appeal. Another attraction of squirrel hunting is the promise of success. Populations are so strong throughout most of the state that with any of these three techniques you can count on bagging at least a few squirrels to take home. Often you'll have the opportunity to harvest a full limit of six, if you can make use of that many and chances are you can, since the flavor of squirrel meat is delicious in stews, barbequed or pan-fried.

The sport requires no expensive leases, elaborate planning, highpriced guides or long-distance travel. Simply drive or walk to the nearest mature hardwood forest and you're likely to be smack in the middle of good squirrel habitat. The state's national forests and wildlife management areas offer prime squirrel terrain and many landowners will allow you to hunt if they know you are only interested in squirrels instead of larger game such as deer or turkey. (But if you make a good impression by being courteous and hunting safely, chances are you may be invited back for a big game hunt later.)

Before delving into these three favorite tactics for bagging squirrels, let's look at the gear you'll need. Camouflage is not absolutely required, but will definitely help you approach closer to your quarry when stalking and be less conspicuous on a stand or floating in a boat. I like the tree or bark-type patterns, but most any camo will help.

A pair of binoculars in the 6X-8X magnification range comes in handy for checking out odd humps on tree branches and glassing downstream on floats or ahead in the forest while

still hunting.

Firearms for squirrel hunting can be either a .22 rimfire rifle or shotgun, except rifles cannot be used when hunting from a boat in Virginia. If you're strictly hunting close range, you can use an iron-sighted rifle, but for most situations a low power scope is valuable, either 2.5X, 4X, or a variable in the 2X-7X, 1.5X-6X or 3X-9X range. Choose a oneinch diameter big game scope, instead of a smaller model made especially for .22's. The larger ones gather light better and offer a wider field of view. Zero the rifle for 50 yards and strive for a linch or better group at this distance.

Rifles are particularly useful when stand hunting, since the tiny "spat" of these guns is less likely to spook nearby squirrels than the blast of a shotgun. Since you'll be sitting, you can easily brace yourself for a solid, accurate shot. This type of hunting also goes a long way toward making you a better marksman for later deer hunts, because of

the similar steps involved.

For still hunting, you can also use a .22, but a shotgun may be the better choice, since you'll be walking and opportunities are often quick shots at scampering game. For float hunting, shotguns are the only legal firearm. What gauge you choose is largely a matter of personal preference. Anything from 12 to 28 will work, and pumps, autoloaders, doubles and single shots are all acceptable. The choke should be either improved cylinder or modified, with high brass loads of 5's or 6's.

Still Hunting—This is a totally engaging sport. Both mind and body work fully as you pick your way through the woods trying to match your wits against the razor-keen senses of the squirrel on its home turf. You're simultaneously studying the layout of the forest to find the quietest course to take, watching for sign, peering into the treetops and scanning the leaf litter for the flicker of a gray or rust-colored tail, and the odd hump on a branch that might betray your quarry.

Ideal weather for still hunting is a calm, crisp day. If it has rained or snowed recently and the ground is damp, soft and quiet, so much the better. In fact, I've enjoyed excellent hunting during light rains and snowfalls. A moderate wind is not a problem, but on blustery days, squirrels often stick tight to their

nests.

Look for feeding sign such as upturned leaves, fragments of nut hulls that are brightly colored on the edges, indicating freshness, and chewed corn husks carried back into the woods. Also be alert for tracks and the presence of nests or den trees. Move through the woods at a slow pace, pausing often. Search for sign or the animals themselves. When you find sign, slow down even more. When you find squirrels, come to a complete stop.

Actually, though, you'll often hear the game before you see it. Squirrels make many vocal sounds such as barking, chattering and squealing. When they travel, you'll sometimes hear rattling branches or claws scampering up tree trunks. When they eat, you may detect the squirrel's sharp teeth gnawing through a nut or the pitter-patter of shell fragments landing on the forest floor. On the ground, squirrels can be heard scampering through dry leaves. Tune your ears to pick up these telltale sounds and you'll find that it's often easier to detect the quarry by sound than sight.

If the squirrel is within range when you see it, slowly raise your shotgun or rifle, aim and fire. Always use a rest when shooting with a .22, and remember that on high angle shots you may have to aim a tad low. If the game is too far away, slowly sneak into shooting range, then take a rest and fire.

Stand Hunting—This is like a mini-deer hunt, but the difference is you'll likely experience success three or four times in a morning instead of once every season or two.

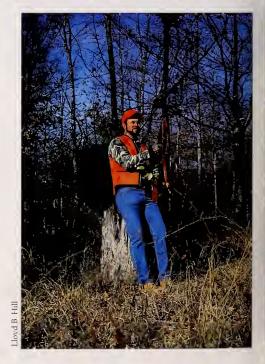
shooting opportunities. Most of these shots will be stationary ones, too, if you have the patience to wait until the squirrels pause in their movements. With a shotgun it's not as critical, however, and running shots can be taken.

Choosing a good stand location requires some scouting. The prime areas are found where mature hardwoods offer a good mast crop.



Squirrels can be hunted by walking quietly through the woods, taking a stand, or even by floating our rivers. You must always obtain permission to hunt on private land, however, even when hunting from a boat. And don't forget your blaze orange when hunting during the regular firearms season.

Just like deer hunting, you must scout the habitat, find fresh sign, choose a good stand location, wait patiently without moving until your quarry shows itself, then slowly raise your rifle or shotgun and fire. The main difference is that squirrel hunting is a more relaxed affair and easier. This is a perfect way to hunt if you like to use a .22 rifle. The shallow report of a rimfire is not likely to spook other squirrels in the area. When you bag an animal, simply note where it fell and wait. Chances are other squirrels will either continue their activities, or resume them soon, providing other



VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

Check walnuts, oaks and hickories and look for a good amount of mast and freshly chewed shell fragments. Stands near the edge of cornfields can pay off for fox squirrels if fresh sign shows they've been using the area.

Arrive before daylight and take your stand. As the first sliver of orange dawn begins to illuminate the woods, you'll see squirrel activity. The only exception is during bitterly cold or blustery weather when the animals may come out a tad later. Wait patiently and soon several squirrels should be moving about within rifle range. At this point your shooting skills and the stealth of your movements will determine the heft of your bag. After activity slackens, walk to another area with fresh sign, settle back against a tree and wait. It may take awhile, but soon the squirrels will start to move again if you picked a current feeding loca-

Float Hunting—This is a sport that would be fun even if no squirrels showed themselves. Drifting quietly downstream in a dull or camouflage-painted canoe or johnboat in autumn or early winter is a magical experience. You'll likely see ducks, deer, herons, perhaps a fox, mink or

turkey—and you will see squirrels. The first time I floated a river in Virginia, many years ago, my friend and I took a brace of fox squirrels and four grays between us, then called it quits. But we could have taken many more. If fact, we counted 37 different squirrels along the bank or in trees near the shoreline. You won't always see that many, but chances are you'll be able to at least bag enough for a few delicious meals on a half-day float.

The first thing to do is locate a river that flows next to hardwood trees with squirrels present that is either located on public land or where you can obtain permission to hunt. Then select put-in and take-out points 4-8 river miles apart. Figure on roughly an hour per mile, though it might not take you quite that long. Better to overestimate the time required than underestimate, though, particularly in cold weather on short winter days. Avoid rivers with dangerous rapids and also stretches with dams that can slow the drift of your boat and require paddling and portaging.

Either a johnboat or canoe will work, but it's best if the craft is painted flat gray, drab olive or actually camouflaged. Bring paddles, life

preservers, and if the weather is cold, a complete change of clothes in a waterproof sack, along with matches or a butane lighter to start a fire in case of an emergency. Also bring an anchor. Sometimes you'll see a squirrel that will scurry around the tree trunk out of sight before you can get a shot off. If you anchor, however, the quarry will often come back out in five minutes or so.

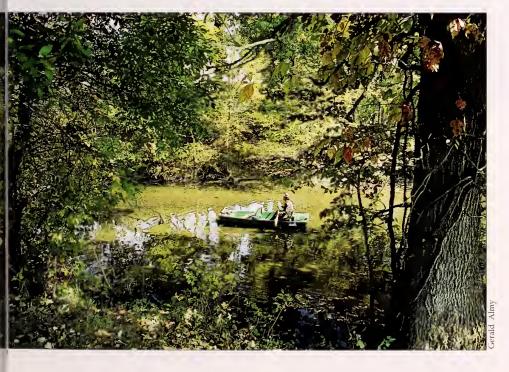
Another good piece of equipment is a landing net. Most squirrels float if they fall in the water after the shot, but some sink. If you get to them quickly and have a landing net, you can easily scoop them up.

On the best rivers you won't have to do much paddling. Usually the person in the stern can just use the paddle as a scull to keep the boat positioned straight and drifting in the best part of the river. If it's a small stream, you can cover both sides (but make sure you have permission to hunt the land on both sides). On a larger river, pick the shore having the most hardwoods or where you see the most squirrels. Besides watching for movement, look for odd humps or tails hanging down from branches.

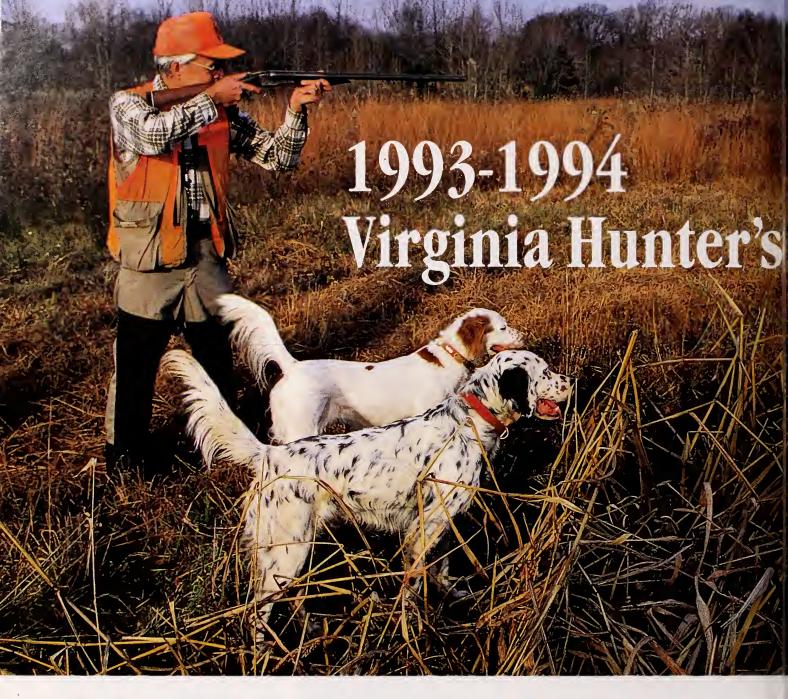
Early in the mornings you'll often see more activity low in trees or on the ground as the squirrels busy themselves feeding or getting a drink. From mid-morning to early afternoon, look to the higher branches. In late afternoon the ground and lower levels of trees produce again.

Sometimes midday action can be on the slow side, so on early season floats I'll often bring a fishing rod and small selection of lures or flies. Catching a few feisty smallmouths or panfish can provide a welcome noon break before returning your attention to squirrels again as the sun begins to dip behind shoreline trees.

Whatever method you choose, hunting squirrels in the Old Dominion is an opportunity not to be missed this year—all season long. □



Gerald Almy has been a full-time outdoor writer for over 17 years. He is currently a lunting and fishing editor on the staff of Sports Afield.





Top: photo by Dwight Dyke. Above: photo by Bill Lea

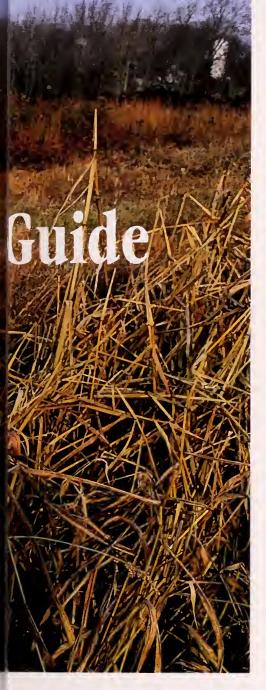
## A Hunter's Pledge

Responsible hunting provides unique challenges and rewards. However, the future of the sport depends on each hunter's behavior and ethics. Therefore, as a hunter I pledge to:

- ☐ Respect the environment and wildlife
- Respect property and landowners
- ☐ Show consideration for nonhunters
- ☐ Hunt safely
- ☐ Know and obey the law
- Support wildlife and habitat conservation
- Pass on an ethical hunting tradition
- ☐ Strive to improve my outdoor skills and understanding of wildlife
- ☐ Hunt only with ethical hunters

By following these principles of conduct each time I go afield, I will give my best to the sport, the public, the environment and myself. The vesponsibility to hunt ethically is mine; the future of hunting depends on me.

-Izaak Walton League of America



irginia is full of hunting opportunities. No matter where you live, you can be in prime hunting country within the hour. However, to keep the sport safe and the wildlife resource healthy, you must follow the rules. Below, we have outlined some of the basics that every hunter must follow, but it is essential to obtain a copy of the brochure entitled "Hunting in Virginia: 1993-94 Regulations" produced by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries,

which is available wherever hunting licenses are sold.

The following guide should help you in choosing quality hunting opportunities in addition to hunting legally and ethically. Be sure to make contacts early, obtain the permission and permits necessary, and be considerate of the property of others.

## Licenses Required

erry hunter must have a valid license. Exceptions to this are: (l) landowners and tenants who live on the land they rent and who have their landlord's written permission; (2) Virginia residents 65 years of age or older who hunt on private property in the county of their residence.

The licenses you need depend upon what, where and even how you hunt. A basic resident or non-resident license is required of all hunters and is valid for hunting all upland game. If you want to hunt deer, bear and turkey, an additional license is required. A National Forest Permit is needed to hunt on National Forest land and a similar stamp is required to hunt the Piedmont State Forests.

A special *archery license* is required to hunt during special seasons open for bowhunting only.

A special *muzzleloading gun license* is required to hunt during the special muzzleloading season.

Bonus deer tags can be purchased which allow hunters to take bonus deer beyond statewide and special season bag limits in certain areas.

Some western counties require a game damage stamp to hunt deer or bear within their respective boundaries. These are issued by the clerks of the court in counties where they are required.

A federal *migratory waterfowl stamp* is required for hunting ducks or geese and is available at local post offices. A voluntary state waterfowl

stamp is also available for \$5, the proceeds from which will be used for habitat acquisition and restoration, and waterfowl research.

A blind license must be displayed on both stationary and floating blinds in, or on the shores of public waters east of Interstate 95 except on the Eastern Shore counties. Consult the hunting regulations for particular information.

A special early goose season has been approved this year in an attempt to harvest the expanding population of resident geese in Virginia. The season will run from September 7 through September 15 and is restricted to specific hunt zones which include portions of the northern and central piedmont and the lower peninsula. The bag limit is 3 geese per day, with six in possession. Hunters are required to obtain a free per*mit* and keep the daily hunting log accompanying it. These logs must be turned in at the end of the season in order to provide the Department with harvest and hunter participation data as required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Call the Richmond VDGIF office at 804/367-1000 for further details.

The general license year is from July *l-June 30*. Licenses may be obtained from some of the clerks of the courts and from authorized Department agents conveniently located throughout the state at most sporting goods and country stores. Further information about licenses may be obtained from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104. Phone (804) 367-1000.

## Fees

A \$.50 issuance fee will be added to each license.

#### Resident

County or city resident to hunt in county or city of resident 5.00
State resident to hunt statewide
State resident license to hunt deer, bear and turkey statewide required in addition to county or state hunting license, senior citizen or lifetime license
State resident junior to hunt statewide (15 years and under)
State resident junior license to hunt deer, bear and turkey statewide (15 years and under) required in addition to state hunting license
Disabled resident special lifetime license to hunt (bear, deer, turkey license and all special stamps are required in addition to this license)
<b>Disabled Veteran resident lifetime license</b> to hunt and fish 5.00
Senior citizen resident (age 65) license to hunt (bear, deer, turkey license and all special stamps are required in addition to this license)1.00
Senior citizen resident (age 65) license to trap (bear, deer, turkey license and all special stamps are required in addition to this license)1.00
State resident muzzleloading li- cense to hunt statewide 12.00
State resident archery license to hunt statewide
County or city resident to trap in county or city of residence 10.00
State resident to trap statewide35.00
Special stamp to hunt deer and bear in Alleghany, Craig, Floyd, Highland, Rockbridge, Russell, and Wythe counties, in addition to other licenses, and sold only by the clerks of those counties
Resident bonus deer permit (2 tags) valid only on private lands in counties and cities where deer hunting is permitted12.00

Nonresident
Nonresident lifetime license to hunt500.00
Nonresident to hunt statewide
Nonresident 3-day trip license to hunt statewide30.00
Nonresident muzzleloading license to hunt statewide 25.00
Nonresident archery license to hunt statewide
Nonresident bear, deer, turkey license to hunt deer, bear and turkey statewide, required in addition to hunting license 60.00
Nonresident special stamp in Russell County1.00
Nonresident special stamp in Alleghany, Craig, Floyd, Highland, Rockbridge, and Wythe counties
Nonresident to hunt on shooting preserves only obtainable in counties in which preserves
are located
on private land by permission
Nonresident bonus deer permit (2 tags) valid only on private lands in counties and cities where deer hunting is permitted
Miscellaneous National Forest permit to hunt, fish
or trap on national forests, required in addition to hunting license (holders of senior citizen (age 65) license excepted)

Permit to hunt or trap on Appomattox-Buckingham, Cumberland-Prince Edward and Pocahontas State Forests (sold by the Dept. of Forestry and local license agents) may be obtained from Forest Headquarters . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10.00

Federal migratory bird stamp to take migratory waterfowl, required of persons 16 years of age and over in addition to hunting license and sold at U.S. Post Offices . . . . . 15.00

Virginia migratory waterfowl	
stamp (voluntary)	5.00

## Special Regulations

B elow are important hunting regulations which address those hunting during the firearms season, waterfowl hunters, and those hunting for the first time.

## Blaze Orange Required

Every hunter or person accompanying a hunter during a firearms deer season shall wear a blaze orange hat or blaze orange upper body clothing that is visible from 360 degrees or display at least 100 square inches of solid blaze orange material at shoulder level within body reach and visible from 360 degrees. Blaze orange is not required (but recommended) during the special muzzleloading season or during spring gobbler season. Fall turkey hunters will be required to wear blaze orange during that part of the fall turkey season that falls within the firearms deer season. Those not required to wear blaze orange are waterfowl hunters who hunt from stationary or floating blinds, over decovs, in marshes and swamps, or from a boat or other floating conveyance; individuals participating in hunting dog field trials and fox hunters on horseback without firearms.

## **Steel Shot Zones**

Steel shot is required statewide for waterfowl hunting.

### **Hunter Education**

All first-time hunters and anyone from the ages of 12 to 15 years old will have to demonstrate that they have successfully completed an approved hunter education course before they can buy a hunting license.

Persons 16 years old or over will be exempted if they have held a hunting license in prior years. Virginia recognizes all other states' and countries' hunter education programs. For convenience, current licensed hunters should save their old license until they buy their new ones. For information on hunter safety courses in your area, contact the hunter education training sergeants listed below or the Richmond Office at 804/367-1000.





Top: Blaze orange clothing is required during the general firearms season. Above: VDGIF sponsors a Hunter Education Championship each year to hone

Region 1

Sgt. Terry Bradbery, Williamsburg Office (804) 253-7072

Region 2

Sgt. Mike Ashworth, Forest Office (703) 525-7522

Region 3

Sgt. Harry Street, III, Marion Office (703)783-6185

Sgt. Frank Mundy, Verona Office (703) 248-9360

Region 5

Sgt. Randy Grauer, Fredericksburg Office (703) 899-4169

## 1993-94 Virginia Hunting Seasons Summary

(For more detailed information, ask you local license agent for a copy of Hunting in Virginia, 1993-1994 Regulations.)

BEAR October 9-November 6

Archery November 22-January 1 General Season

BOBCAT November 1-January 31 Statewide (6 per year)

**CROW** August 21-March 19 Statewide-Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday only

October 1-November 30 DEER Va. Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of Dismal Swamp)

October 2-November 13

November 1-November 13 Early Muzzleloader

November 15-January 1 Isle of Wight, Suffolk (west of Dismal Swamp)

November 15-November 27 West of Blue Ridge (general firearms) East of Blue Ridge (general firearms) November 15-January 1

November 29-January 1 Archery–West of Blue Ridge

December 1-January 1 Archery–Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of

Dismal Swamp)

December 20-January 1 Late muzzleloader-designated western counties

FOX Year-round

Dogs only-statewide, with exceptions Statewide, with exceptions

November 1-January 31

**GROUSE** West of I-95 (closed east of I-95) October 25-February 12

PHEASANT November 8-January 31 Statewide, with exceptions

QUAIL November 8-January 31 Statewide

RABBIT November 1-January 31 Statewide (season closed to snowshoe hare)

RACCOON August l-May 31 Chase only-(private lands only)

October 15-March 10 East of Blue Ridge West of Blue Ridge October 15-January 31

**SQUIRREL** September 4-January 31 Statewide-designated southern counties

October 9-January 31 Statewide-designated northern counties

FOX SQUIRREL Same as squirrel but only in counties west of the Blue Ridge and Fairfax, Fauquier

(except C.F. Phelps WMA), Loudoun and Rappahannock

TURKEY October 2-November 13 Archery

November 1-November 13 Designated eastern counties November 1-November 13 Designated central counties November 22-January 1 Designated central counties Designated southwest counties

November 1-January 1 April 16-May 21, 1994 Spring Gobbler Season

DEER BAG LIMITS

Statewide 2 per day, 3 per license year (one of which must be antlerless) Archery 2 per day, 3 per season (one of which must be antlerless)

Muzzleloader 2 per day, 3 per season (one of which must be antlerless) **Bonus Tags** 

2 tags for \$12.00 (resident) or \$25.00 (nonresident), valid only on private lands in counties or cities where deer hunting is allowed. Valid during special archery,

special muzzleloading and general firearms seasons.

# Where to Hunt

inding good places to hunt in Virginia requires planning. Simply traveling the highways and byways until you see unposted land is not the right way to hunt at all!

No privately owned land, posted or not, is open to hunting without first obtaining permission. Written permission is required on posted land and verbal permission in all other cases. Posted land, in addition to signs, may be recognized by silver or aluminum painted stripes on trees.

Some selected state and federal lands as well as lands managed by private timber companies are available for public hunting with appropriate permits. Below is a description of the public hunting lands available in Virginia.





**Top**. Grouse season opens west of the Blue Ridge on October 25 . **Above**: Rabbit hunting opens on November 1.

## Game Department Public Hunting Lands

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries owns approximately 176,000 acres of land in Virginia purchased with hunter license dollars and open to public hunting with a minimum of restrictions. With the exception of the daily blind permits on waterfowl areas at Back Bay and Hog Island, there is no charge for hunting on these areas. Lands owned by Game Department are marked with yellow boundary paint. Hunting seasons and bag limits on these areas usually conform to those for the surrounding county. Most are open for the early archery season. Dove hunting is permitted during the regular open season on Wednesdays and Saturdays and Opening Day only. Hunter access roads on Department lands which are normally open to motor vehicles will be open as indicated (weather permitting):

Statewide: 1st Saturday in October to the 2nd Saturday in February, and 1st Saturday in April to the 3rd Saturday in May.

Foot travel is invited on roads

closed to motor vehicles.

Primitive camping (no developed facilities) is permitted, except as otherwise posted, on Department lands, but not to exceed a maximum of 7 days and in groups not to exceed 3 camping units. Camping is prohibited on or within 100 yards of any Department owned or controlled boat ramp or fishing lake.

Amelia Wildlife Management Area—2,217 acres in Amelia County. Deer, turkeys, squirrels rabbits, quail, doves, and waterfowl. Handicapped accessible fishing pier and toilet facilities. Contact: Robert L. Turney, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, 67 Morningside Road, Cartersville, VA 23027.

Back Bay Hunting Areas—Pocahontas, 796 acres. Waterfowl hunt

on first-come, first-serve basis. Float blinds must be tied to blind stakes. Stakes available for float blind hunting. Float blinds must have a Virginia Beach float blind license acquired by Oct. 1. Information on blinds is available from VDGIF, Wildlife Division, 5806 Mooretown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188.

Briery Creek Wildlife Management Area—2,968 acres in Prince Edward County. Deer, turkeys, quail, doves, rabbits, squirrels and waterfowl. Waterfowl and dove hunting permitted during regular open season on Wednesdays and Saturdays and season opening date only. Contact: Danny W. Johnson, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, Route 2, Box 100, Clarkesville, VA 23927.

C. F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area—4,540 acres in Fauquier and Culpeper Counties. Deer, turkeys, squirrels, rabbits, quail, waterfowl, and doves. Good access to Rappahannock River. Contact: Robert D. Henson, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, Route 2, Box 105, Remington, VA 22734.

Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area—Approximately 6,000 acres in Charles City County. Deer, turkeys, squirrels, rabbits, quail, doves and waterfowl. Floating waterfowl blinds or hunting from shore with a distance of 500 yards between hunters. Contact: VDGIF, Wildlife Division, 5806 Mooretown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188.

Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area—25,477 acres in Smyth, Russell, Tazewell and Washington Counties. Bear, deer, turkeys, squirrels, rabbits, grouse and waterfowl. Contact: John Baker, Wildlife Biologist Supervisor, Route 1, Box 150-C, Sugar Grove, VA 24375.

Crooked Creek Wildlife Management Area—1,785 acres in Carroll County. Deer, turkeys, rabbits, squirrels and grouse. Contact: D. H. Martin, WMA Supervisor, Rt. 2, Box 171, Woodlawn, VA 24381.

Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area—1,372 acres in Mecklenburg County. Dove hunting, small and big game. No waterfowl hunting allowed. Contact: Danny W. Johnson, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, Route 2, Box 100, Clarksville, VA 23927.

Fairy Stone Farms Wildlife Management Area - 5,343 acres in Patrick and Henry Counties. Camping nearby at Fairystone State Park and Philpott Reservoir. Deer, turkeys, squirrels, raccoon, doves and waterfowl. Contact: Mark Frank, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, Route 2, Box 185, Bassett, VA 24055.

G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area—4,160 acres in Fauquier County. Deer, turkeys, rabbits, squirrels and grouse. Contact: Bob Henson, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, Rt. 2, Box 105, Remington, VA 22734.

Gathright Wildlife Management Area—13,428 acres in Bath County. Deer, turkeys, squirrels and waterfowl. Contact: Kenneth R. Sexton, WMA Supervisor, Route 2, Box 648, Hot Springs, VA 24445.

Gatr Tract (managed under Mockhorn)—342 acres seaside in Northampton County. Open to deer hunting only during special archery season Oct. 2-Nov. 13. Contact: VDGIF, Wildlife Division, 5806 Mooretown Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23188.

Goshen Wildlife Management Area—16,128 acres in Rockbridge County. Bear, deer, turkeys, squirrels and grouse. Contact: H. Eugene Sours, WMA Supervisor, 50 Lori Lane, Churchville, VA 24421.

Hardware River Wildlife Management Area—1,034 acres in Fluvanna County. Deer, turkeys, squirrels rabbits, quail, waterfowl and doves. Contact: David Ellinghausen, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, 1320 Belman Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

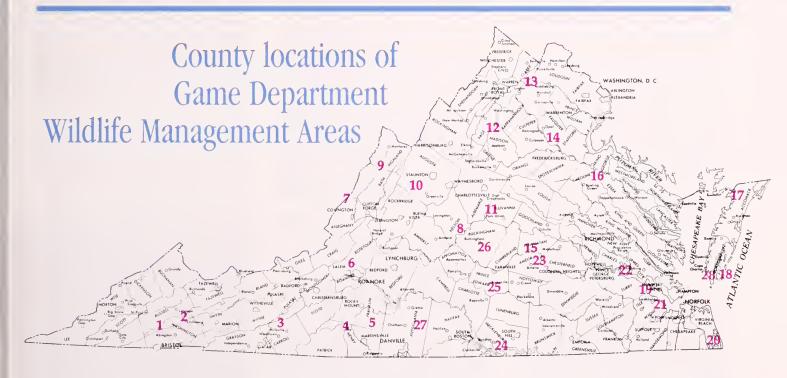
Havens Wildlife Management

Area - 7,160 acres in Roanoke County. Bear, deer, turkeys, squirrels and grouse. Foot access only. Contact: Laura P. Long, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, P.O. Box 20456, Roanoke, VA 24018.

Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Area—6,400 acres in Washington County. Bear, deer, turkeys, squirrels and grouse. Contact: John Baker, Wildlife Biologist Supervisor, Route 1, Box 150-C, Sugar Grove, VA 24375.

Highland Wildlife Management Area—14,284 acres in Highland County. Bear, deer, turkeys, squirrels, rabbits and grouse. Contact: Rodger L. Propst, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, HCO3, Box 70, Monterey, VA 24465.

Hog Island Waterfowl Management Area—3,908 acres in Surry County. Bowhunting for deer during special archery early season. Managed waterfowl hunting. Fee hunting area. Advance fee reserva-



- Hidden Valley (6,400a)
- Clinch Mt. (25,477a)
- Crooked Creek (1,785a)
- Fairy Stone (5,343a)
- Turkeycock Mt. (2,679a) Havens (7,160a)
- Gathright (13,428a)
- James River (671a)
- Highland (13,979a)
- 10 Gosheu-Little North Mt. (33,666a)
- 11 Hardware River (1,034a)
- 12 Rapidan (9,525a)
- 13 G. Richard Thompson (4,160a)
- 14 C. F. Phelps (4,540a)
- 15 Powhatau (4,415a)
- 16 Pettigrew (934a)
- 17 Saxis (5,775a)
- 18 Mockhorn I. (9,452a)
- 19 Hog Island (3,908a)
- 20 Pocaliontas/Trojan (1,148a)
- 21 Ragged Island (1,537a)
- 22 Chickahominy (5.155a)
- 23 Amelia (2,217a)
- 24 Dick Cross (1,372a)
- **25** Briery Creek (2,968a)
- 26 Horsepen (3,000a)
- 27 White Oak Mt. (2,712a)
- 28 Gatr Tract (342a)

tion required. Information on fees and drawings available from the Game Department after Labor Day. Contact: VDGIF, Wildlife Division, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104.

Horsepen Lake Wildlife Management Area—3,000 acres (18-acre lake) in Buckingham County. Deer, turkeys, squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, doves, quail and waterfowl. Contact: Robert L. Turney, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, c/o Hunting Information, HC06, Box 46, Farmville, VA 23901.

James River Wildlife Management Area—671 acres in Nelson County. Deer, turkeys, squirrels, raccoons, rabbits, quail, doves and waterfowl. Contact: Joey Robertson, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, Route 1, Box 76-G, Chatham, VA 24531.

Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area—17,538 acres in Augusta and Rockbridge Counties. Bear, deer, turkeys, squirrels and grouse. Contact: H. Eugene Sours, WMA Supervisor, 50 Lori Lane, Churchville, VA 24421.

Mockhorn Island Wildlife Management Area—9,452 acres in Northampton County. Rail and limited waterfowl. Accessible by boat only. Contact: VDGIF, Wildlife Division, 5806 Mooretown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188.

Pettigrew Wildlife Management Area—934 acres in Caroline County. Deer, turkeys, squirrels, doves and quail. Contact: Robert D. Henson, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, Route 2, Box 105, Remington, VA 22734.

Powhatan Wildlife Management Area—4,415 acres in Powhatan County. Deer, turkeys, squirrels, rabbits, quail, waterfowl and doves. Contact: David N. Ellinghausen, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, 1320 Belman Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area—1,537 acres in Isle of Wight County. Waterfowl and deer by shotgun and bow and arrow only. Contact: VDGIF, Wildlife Divi-

sion, 5806 Mooretown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188.

Rapidan Wildlife Management Area—9,525 acres in Madison and Greene Counties. Bear, deer, turkeys, squirrels, rabbits and grouse. Contact: Robert D. Henson, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, Route 2, Box 105, Remington, VA 22734.

Saxis Wildlife Management Area—5,775 acres in Accomack County. Deer, raccoons and waterfowl.

Contact: VDGIF, Wildlife Division, 5806 Mooretown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188.

Stewart's Creek Wildlife Management Area—1,100 acres in Carroll County. Grouse and turkeys. For information, write: c/o Joe Williams, Fisheries Biologist, 2206 S. Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

Turkeycock Mountain Wildlife Management Area—2,679 acres in Franklin County. Deer, turkeys, squirrela, and raccoon. Contact: Mark Frank, Wildlife Biologist Assistant, Route 2, Box 185, Bassett, VA 24055.

White Oak Mountain Wildlife Management Area—2,712 acres in Pittsylvania County. Deer, turkeys, squirrels, rabbits, quail and doves. Contact: Joey B. Robertson Jr., WMA Supervisor, Route 1, Box 76-G, Chatham, VA 24531.

## Waterfowl Blind Drawing On Management Areas

A public drawing for waterfowl blinds will be held at Barbours Hill and Hog Island Wildlife Management Areas. For information on these hunts, contact VDGIF, 4010 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230-1104, after Labor Day.

General Rules and Procedures for Barbours Hill, & Hog Island Areas



A special resident Canada goose season is set for September 7-September 15. A free permit is required, and hunting is restricted to certain areas of the state.

Before any persons may hunt on these areas, they must first apply for shooting dates and be awarded same by an authorized representative of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. All hunters must check in and out of the respective area headquarters. Only applications with complete information, including a current year Virginia hunting license number (exactly as printed), will be entered in the public drawing. Hunters wishing to apply to either area need to submit a postcard or 3 X 5 card with the following information: Name, address, telephone number, current VA hunting license number, and choice of 3 hunt dates. Note: Areas are open only during 2nd and 3rd split of the waterfowl season on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. All applications must be received in the Richmond office by 5:00 p.m. on October 22, 1993.

Mail applications to Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Wildlife Division Hunts, 4010 West Broad St., P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104.

Only one application per person will be accepted for each area. If duplicate license numbers are submitted for an area, both applications will be voided. Send no money with application. A \$15 fee will be due from the permittee at the area on the date of the hunt. No cash. Standbys by random drawing on hunt days.

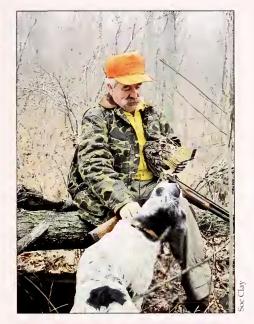
## **National Forests**

The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests provide the largest amount of land open to the general public for hunting in Virginia. Most of the 1.5 million acres of the National Forests is open to public hunting and camping unless specifically designated closed. An annual \$3 stamp is required to hunt or fish on the National Forest. The stamp can be purchased at most outlets that sell hunting licenses. Hunting regulations, seasons and bag limits conform with state and county regulations. Information can be obtained from:

George Washington National Forest Headquarters, Harrison Plaza, 101 North Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, phone (703) 433-2491; Ranger District Offices in Bridgewater, Buena Vista, Covington, Edinburg, Hot Springs and Staunton. New updated sportsman's maps are available for a fee at the headquarters or the six ranger district offices.

Jefferson National Forest Headquarters, Federal Building, 210 Franklin Road, SW Roanoke, VA 24001, phone (703) 982-6270; Ranger District Offices in Blacksburg, Wise, Natural Bridge Station, Marion, New Castle and Wytheville.





## Cooperative **Public Hunting** Areas

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is responsible for wildlife management on some 250,000 acres of land it does not own in return for hunting privileges and benefits to sportsmen.

## **Piedmont State Forests**

The following State Forests are owned and managed by the Virginia Department of Forestry for public use: Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest—19,705 acres south of Route 24 in Appomattox and Buckingham Counties. Cumberland State Forest—16,779 acres in western Cumberland County north of U.S. 60. Pocahontas State Forest— 5,873 acres south of Richmond in Chesterfield County. (The portion of this area which adjoins the State Park and selected buffer zones adjacent to State Forest boundaries are closed to hunting.) Prince EdwardGallion State Forest—6,964 acres in eastern Prince Edward County north of Route 360.

In addition to the state or county hunting license, a special State Forest hunting stamp (permit) is required. At a cost of \$10, this State Forest permit can be purchased from selected issuing agents, many located near the properties. They are also available by mail. To purchase by mail, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope along with the individual's name and state hunting license number to the Cumberland State Forest Office or the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest Office (addresses below).

Seasons and bag limits generally coincide with those of the county/counties in which each State Forest is located. However, there are some differences which need to be recognized. Consult the Game Laws Summary produced by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

for specific exceptions.

Special safety zones are established on each State Forest to protect residences, offices and working facilities. These are adequately "signed." Included State Parks are also protected. All such areas, in addition to all physical facilities and improvements are shown on State Forest maps which are available from each State Forest office. For additional information, State Forest maps, hunting permits, and other details, write to: Cumberland State Forest, Route 1, Box 250, Cumberland, VA 23040. Telephone: (804) 492-4121 or Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, Route 3, Box 133, Dillwyn, VA 23936. Telephone: (804) 983-2175.

## Military Areas

Marine Corps Base, MCCDC Quantico. 50,000 acres in Fauquier, Prince William and Stafford Counties. A minimum of 15 percent of the available hunting spaces each day are reserved for off-post civilian hunters. All must purchase the annual base hunting permit after attending a mandatory hunting orientation/safety lecture which is given at the base game checking station. Lectures are given from October l-January 31 and during spring gobbler season. For information concerning cost of permits and times of lectures, call (703) 640-5523. Daily hunting quotas vary depending upon military commitments. Shotgun slugs are required for deer hunting. Deer may not be hunted with dogs or by driving. Certain areas allow muzzleloaders.

Fort A.P. Hill Military Reservation. 76,000 acres in Caroline County. The permit fee is: \$20-adults, \$10youths. Permits are valid for up to one year (July 1- June 30) with an unlimited supply. Hunting on a firstcome, first-served daily basis from hunting section office. Shotgun and bow and arrow only are permitted. Dogs may not be used to hunt deer. Dove hunting on Wednesdays and Saturdays only during the regular dove season. Maps available. Write to: Community Recreation Division Attn: Hunt Check Station, Fort A.P. Hill, Bowling Green, VA 22427-5000. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Phone (804) 633-8300 or 633-8219.

Radford Army Ammunition Plant. 2,800 acres in Pulaski County. Deer is the only legal game that can be hunted. Hunters are selected from Game Department applications received before September of each year. Applications are available beginning July 1st of each year. A total of 250 hunters are selected for 5 archery hunts and 90 selected for 3 shotgun hunts. All hunting is restricted to Saturdays and holidays (Thanksgiving). All hunting is restricted to the available stands. Application fee is \$3.50 and the hunt permit is \$10.00 Hunters between the ages of 12-18 must be accompanied by a licensed hunting adult. All other appropriate licenses are required (big game, archery, state license). For further information, contact: Commander RAAP, Attn: Deer Hunt Coordinator, Radford, VA 24141. Other contacts: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Rt. 1, Box 107, Marion VA 24354. Phone: (703) 783-4860 or the Richmond Office at 4010 W. Broad Street, Richmond VA 23230-1104. Phone: (804) 367-1000.

Fort Pickett Military Reservation. 45,198 acres in Brunswick, Dinwiddie and Nottoway Counties. Hunting normally permitted Monday through Saturday except Christmas Day. Daily hunting quotas are based on troop training activities. Geographical areas on Fort Pickett may be closed at any time due to military training missions on the installation. Quail hunting on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays only. Dogs may be used to hunt both big and small game with some areas off-limits to hunting deer with dogs. Dove hunting is permitted on Wednesdays and Saturdays (afternoons only). Hunters must wear blaze orange (minimum of 500 square inches above the waist) during the deer firearms season. In addition to a state hunting license, a Fort Pickett permit is required. The permit fee is \$12.00 plus a \$3.00 outdoor activity fee. Hunting information and map may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: HQ, U.S. Army Garrison, Attn: Game Check Station, Fort Pickett, Blackstone, VA 23824. For additional information/inquiries, phone (804)292-2618.

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- 5,900 acres in Franklin, Henry, and Patrick counties surrounding Philpott Lake. No permit required. Map available from Resource Manager, Route 6, Box 140, Bassett, VA 24055.
- 38,000 acres in Charlotte, Halifax and Mecklenburg Counties surrounding John H. Kerr Reservoir. No special permit required. Nineteen developed wildlife management areas. Map and management area guide available from Reservoir Manager, Route 1, Box 76, Boydton VA 23917.





- 7,523 acres in Dickenson County surrounding John W. Flannagan Dam and Reservoir. No permit required. For additional information, contact Resource Manager, Route 1, Box 268, Haysi, VA 24256-9736, (703) 835-9544.
- 88 acres in Wise County surrounding North Fork of Pound River Lake. No special permit required. For additional information, contact: Project Supervisor, Route 1, Box 369, Pound, VA 24279-9369, (703) 7965775.

### **State Parks**

When traveling through state park areas not designated for hunting, guns **must** be unloaded and cased. For general information about hunting at Virginia state parks, call (804) 786-1712.

Fairy Stone State Park—2,400 acres in Patrick and Henry Counties only. No permit required. Remainder of park closed to hunting, but open for other park activities. Maps available. Write: Route 2, Box 723, Stuart, VA 24171.

Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park—220 acres in Amelia and Prince Edward Counties. Special



designated areas of hunting are marked. No permit required. No maps. For information, write: Route 2, Box 70, Greenbay, VA 23942.

Grayson-Highland State Park—950 acres in Grayson County. No permit required. Maps available. Write: Route 2, Box 141, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363. Phone: (804) 786-1712.

False Cape State Park—4,321 acres in Virginia Beach. Limited waterfowl hunting by permit November-January. Limited deer and feral hog hunting October 2-9 only. Contact: VDGIF, Wildlife Division, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104.

Occoneechee State Park— 2,100 acres in Mecklenburg County on Buggs Island Lake. No permit required. Maps available. Write: Rt. 2, Box 3, Clarksville, VA 23927. Phone: (804) 786-1712.

While not designated for hunting, there will be camping available through November 28, 1993 at Bear Creek Lake State Park which is adjacent to Cumberland State Forest.

### **Industrial Lands**

Appalachian Power Cooperative Management Areas—4,800 acres surrounding Smith Mountain Lake in Bedford and Pittsylvania Counties. No permit required. No maps available. For information, contact Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Route 1, Box 76-G, Chatham, VA 24531, (804) 432-1377.

Union Camp Corporation Cooperative Management Area— 6,000 acres in Brunswick County near Lawrenceville south of Route 58 in several tracts. No permit required. Map available. Write: Union Camp Corporation, Nottoway Forest, 12120 Wakefield Rd., Sedley, VA 23878.

Westvaco Cooperative Management Area—900 acres in Amherst County. No permit required. Maps are not available. Write: Westvaco Timberland Division, P.O. Box 577, Rupert, WV 25984. Phone (804) 352-7132.

## Corporate Timberlands

Many corporate timber companies open their lands to public hunting. They require an annual permit, however, and the fees vary. Before purchasing a permit, be sure to check with the company on the specifics of the lands they have available to public hunting, since many reserve large tracts for lease to hunt clubs. A state hunting license is required in addition to any timber company hunting permit.

## Bear Island Timberlands

Approximately 85,000 acres are available for permit hunting throughout central piedmont Virginia. Permits are valid on any company properties *except* land which is posted with "No Hunting" or "Hunting Privileges Leased" signs. Permits may be obtained by mail only. Cost of permits is \$15 each, and \$10 for disabled or senior citizens with proof of disability or age required. Individual county maps are available at \$1 per map. **Note**: Maps are subject to change each year. For a list of counties with tracts available for permit hunting, write to Bear Island Timberlands Co, L.P., Hunting Permits, P.O. Box 2119, Ashland, VA 23005. Permits are valid from September 1,1993 through May 31,1994.

## Chesapeake Forest Products Company

Public hunting permits are sold at the three Woodland Regional Offices during normal business hours or by mail. Permits are valid on all lands posted with Chesapeake white metal posted signs. Some restrictions may apply on certain tracts. The West Point Office will be open the first three Saturdays in November from 9 A.M.- noon. All mail requests must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Maps are available at a cost of \$1.00 per map. Permits will not be issued to persons under the age of seven. Permits are valid for hunting only. Permits are \$20. The Woodland Regional Offices are:

West Point Region—approximately 25,000 acres located in Charles City, Gloucester, James City, King and Queen, King William, Mathews, Middlesex and New Kent Counties. Contact: Chesapeake Forest Products Company, Hunting Permits, 15th and Main Streets, West Point, VA 23181. Phone: (804) 843-5298.

Pocomoke Region—approximately 15,000 acres located in Accomack (VA), Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset (MD). Contact: Chesapeake Forest Products Company, Hunting Permits, Box 300, Pocomoke City, MD 21851. Phone: (301) 957-1521.

Keysville Region—Approximately 12,000 acres located in Charlotte, Halifax, and Lunenburg Counties. Contact: Chesapeake Forest Products Company, Hunting Permits, Box 450, Keysville, VA 23947. Phone: (804)736-8505.

## The Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company

About 25,000 acres are available for hunting. Some acreage is leased for exclusive use and so posted; all other unposted properties open to permit holders. Counties with one or more tracts open for hunting include: Appomattox, Buckingham, Caroline, Culpeper, Cumberland, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Halifax, Hanover, King George, Louisa, Lunenburg, Nottoway, Orange and Spotsylvania Counties. Permits are available by mail only after completing an application. All applications must be completed and mailed to Thomas N. Reeder, Jr., District Manager, P.O. Box 868, Fredericksburg, VA 22404. All applications must be

accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope and a check or money order for \$15.00 for each permit. Maps (\$2.00 per set) are available only when purchasing a permit.

## **Lester Properties**

20,000 acres are leased to area sportsman's clubs in tracts located in the counties of Franklin, Halifax, Henry and Pittsylvania. Several tracts are still available for lease. Contact: Kenneth O. Scruggs, Forestland Department Manager, Post Office Drawer 4991, Martinsville, VA 24115. Phone (703) 632-2195 ext. 250.

#### Westvaco

More than 150,000 acres are open to hunting in 20 counties, including Albemarle, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Botetourt, Buckingham, Campbell, Halifax, Nelson, Pittsylvania and Rockbridge. Some tracts leased exclusively to hunt clubs. Hunting/fishing permits for \$15, accompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelope. No maps. Write to: Timberlands Division, P.O. Box 577, Rupert, WV 25984.

## Additional Sporting Opportunities

## Access for Disabled Hunters

The George Washington and Jefferson National Forest offer special access for disabled hunters. Interested individuals should contact district offices for specific information about what is available and guidelines:

GEORGE WASHINGTON: Deerfield Ranger District, phone (703) 855-8028; Dry River Ranger District,

phone (703) 828-2591; James River Ranger District, phone (703) 962-2214; Lee Ranger District, phone (703) 984-4101; Pedlar Ranger District, phone (703) 261-6105; Warm Springs Ranger District, phone (703) 839-2521.

JEFFERSON: New Castle District, phone (703) 864-5195 and the National Recreation Area, phone (703) 783-5196.

Hunters are qualified if they have a valid disabled resident special lifetime license, or a disabled veteran resident lifetime license—and a state Permit for Persons Permanently Unable to Hunt on Foot. This permit allows disabled hunters to shoot from a stationary vehicle. Permittees may have one non-disabled helper ride in the vehicle with them. This assis-



tant may hunt, but he/she must shoot from outside the vehicle.

## Special Deer Hunt for Disabled Hunters

The Virginia Department of Forestry will hold its second deer hunt for physically disabled persons at the New Kent Forestry Center during the 1993 deer season. Hunt days have been scheduled for the 1993 hunting season on November 20, 27, and December 4, 11, 18, 27, 28, 29, 30.

In order to participate in this year's hunt, hunters must have a physical disability which significantly limits their mobility while hunting. The hunter may bring an

assistant, who will also be allowed to hunt. Both hunters must possess a valid Virginia hunting license and big game stamp. The daily limit will be two deer of either sex. Biological data will be collected from every deer in order to plan future herd management. The stands are easily accessible by vehicle, and many consist of a ramp and platform for wheelchair accessibility.

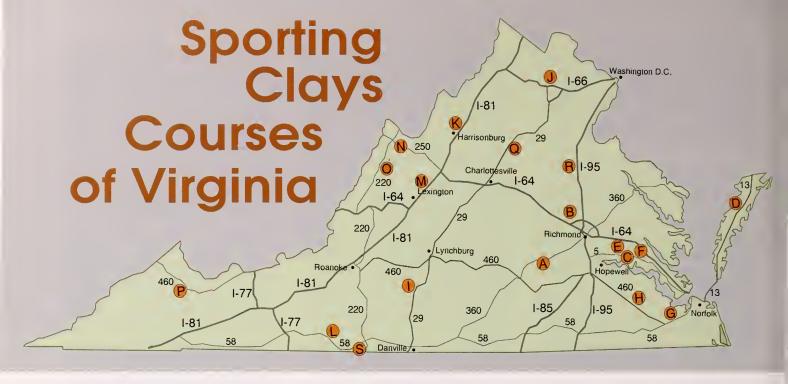
To apply for participation, hunters must submit the following: 1) a 3" x 5" index card with name, address, social security number, phone number, age, assistant's name, and first three choices of dates; 2) disability verification; and 3) preference for a natural stand or a stand with a platform and ramp. Mail by October 4 to: New Kent

Forestry Center, 11301 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, VA 23140 (or call (804) 966-2201 for more information). To receive confirmation, applicants must enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Dates will be assigned by random drawing.

## Mason Neck Deer Hunt

The Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Lorton will be holding a white-tailed deer management hunt. The season will run during the following days: November 22, 23, 24, December 13, 14, and 15. Participants will be chosen by a





A: Greg Gosik Amelia W.M.A. S.C VDGIF. P.O. 1104 Richmond.VA 23230-1104 804/367-1000

B: Henry Baskerville Cavalier Rifle & Pistol 9 Chase Gayton Drive, Apt. 1124 Richmond, VA 23233 804/740-5263

C; Charles Carter Charles City Clays 501 Shirley Plantation Road Charles City, VA 23030 804/829-6270

D: Tom Webh Eastern Shore Safaris P.O. Box 37 Jamesville, VA 23398 804/442-6035

E: Jim Wallace Izaak Walton Park 5100 Charles City Road Charles City, VA 23030 804/966-7313 F: Gerry Felix Old Forge Outdoors 104 Elizabeth Page Williamshurg, VA 23185 804/966-2955

G: George Thompson Southwind Farm S.C. 10134 Firetower Road Windsor, VA 23487 804/357-9000

H: Forest Dance Sussex Shooting Sports 2005 Wakefield Avenue Petershurg, VA 23805 804/83+3200

I: Boh Ott Buffalo Creek Sporting Cluh Rt. 1, Box 232 Lynch Station, VA 24571 703/297-6626

J: Gene Hutsky or Roh Farmer Bull Run Shooting Center 7700 Bull Run Drive Centreville, VA 22020 703/830-23+4 K: Gregory Weaver Flying Rahhit Co. P.O. Box 1234 Harrisonhurg, VA 22801 703/432-3969

L: Johnny Lambert Primland Hunting Reserve Rt. 1, Box 100 Meadows of Dan, VA 24120 703/251-8012

M; Chris Salb Quail Ridge Sporting Clays Rt. 3, Box 116-A Lexington, VA 24450 703/463-1800

N: H.T. McBride Red Oak Ranch Sporting Clays Rt. 1, Box 95 Harrisonhurg, VA 22801 703/468-2949

O: David Judah Homestead Shooting Grounds P.O. Box 1000 Hot Springs, VA 24+45 703/839-7787 P: J.E. Cooper Thompson Valley S.C P.O. Box 4285 Richlands, VA 246+1 703/988-5770

Q: Neil Selby Shady Grove S.C. Rt 2 Box 32-a Remington, VA 22734 703/439-2683

R: Danny Roberts Forest Green S.P. 9925 Waller Road, P.O. 361 Spotsylvania, VA 22553 703/582-2566

S: W. E. Prillaman Virginia-Carolina Shooting Sports, Inc Rt. 4, Box 379 Ridgeway, Va. 24148 703/ 956-4778 S porting clays is a hunter's dream when the season is over or the shooting skills are in need a bit of improvement. Shooters walk a multistation course, challenged with clay targets thrown to imitate flying ducks, running rabbits, flushing quail, or any number of other quarry. Listed left are the established sporting clays ranges in Virginia. Some require membership, others operate on a daily fee basis. Call first for information, reservations and directions.

computerized lottery (with option for additional days), and orientation and range qualification will be required after selection. Hunters must use buckshot only, and must purchase a \$10.00 refuge permit in addition to state hunting licenses.

Moderate physical limitations can be accommodated in the regular hunt, and a special hunt has been designed for the mobility impaired who meet the state requirement for shooting from a vehicle.

To apply for either hunt (indicate "regular" or "special"), complete a 3x5 card with name, address, and

phone number, include the application fee of \$5 as a check or money order made out to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and mail to Mason Neck NWR, 14416 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 20A, Woodbridge, VA 22192. Applications must be postmarked by September 11. One application per person, and one name per card. For more information, contact Mason Neck NWR, 14416 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 20A, Woodbridge, VA 22191, or phone for information on answering machine after 4:30 PM at (703) 690-1297.

## Rifle Sighting-In Ranges

The *Department of Game and Inland Fisheries* has a public sighting-in range available for rifles and shotguns with slugs on the *Amelia Wildlife Management Area*. Built with safety and accuracy in mind, the range is a 6-station, benchrest-only facility, with 50 and 100-yd. target points. You may sight in any caliber rifle on the range, including black-powder rifles, along with shotguns with slugs. No pistols are allowed. Be sure to bring your own paper tar-

Be sure to bring your own paper targets, cardboard backing, clothespins and tape. The range is open seven days a week from sunrise to sunset, except Mondays when the range is closed until 12 noon for maintenance. No reservations are required.

The *George Washington National Forest* has three rifle ranges open to the public in VA. Generally, the ranges are open from sunrise to sunset every day for firing rifles, pistols, and shotguns at stationary targets. Moving targets are prohibited. There is no fee for use of the range, but you may have to wait your turn. For more information about the ranges and their locations, contact the Headquarters at Harrison Plaza, 101 N. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, phone (703) 433-2491.

## **Shooting Preserves**

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) authorizes the operation of shooting preserves throughout the Commonwealth. For information on shooting preserves in your area, contact: Nancy Dowdy, VDGIF, 4010 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230-1104, phone: 804/367-9588.

## Resources

## Maps

A good map is essential for a successful hunting experience. Topographic maps are available from the following sources: Virginia Reproduction and Supply Company, 9 W. Cary St., Richmond, VA 23220, (804) 643-9116. Virginia Division of Mineral Resources, Box 3667, Charlottesville, VA 22903, (804) 293-5121. U.S. Geological Survey, Branch of Distribution, Box 25286, DFC, Denver, CO 80255. (Use this address if you know the particular map you want.) U.S. Geological Survey, National Cartographic Information

Center (NCIC), 507 National Center, Reston, VA 22902, (703) 860-6045. (Use this address to request an index of the state maps available to find the particular map you are looking for.) Contact each firm individually for procedures and fee information.

## P.H.O.N.E

(Poachers Hurt Our Natural Environment Program)

Seven years ago, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries established a fish and wildlife and boating violation reporting program. A toll-free number (1-800-237-5712) is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including holidays, to report game, fish or boating violations. The P.H.O.N.E. Line is staffed 8 a.m.—5 p.m. daily. An answering system will record call-back requests after hours.

A reward fund has been established by *The Virginia Sportsmen Reward Fund, Inc.*, and is offered for information leading to an arrest. Callers may remain anonymous and are not required to testify in court.



White-tailed deer are plentiful throughout the state, and with newly expanded and liberalized seasons, deer hunters should experience another record year.

## 1993-94 Hunting Season Outlook

#### Deer

by W. Matt Knox Deer Program Supervisor

Many changes have been made to the deer seasons and regulations that will result in greater recreational opportunity for Virginia's deer hunters during the 1993-94 season. Though the general firearms season length has not been changed, eithersex day opportunities have been standardized across physiographic regions where possible and liberalized in most counties, and an additional week has been added to both the early archery season and the muzzleloading season. The biggest change made this year has been in the deer tagging system.

As all Virginia deer hunters will quickly realize once when they purchase their 1993-94 hunting licenses, there are two distinguishing features with the new deer tag structure. First, the three deer tags on the bear, deer, turkey license (i.e., big game license) are valid in any season and at any location. Second, bonus deer permits are only valid on private land. Under the new system there are no deer tags on either the archery or muzzleloader licenses. Archers and muzzleloaders must purchase the bear, deer, turkey license to hunt during their respective seasons and use the deer tags from the bear, deer, turkey license. For all three groups (archers, muzzleloaders, and gun hunters) the statewide bag limit will be two deer per day and three per season, one of

which must be antlerless.
As in the past, either-sex deer can only be harvested on the designated either-sex deer hunting days as pre-

scribed by Department regulation by season and county. A new change is that bonus deer permits are legal statewide in unlimited numbers(s)

on private land only.

Without question, the old deer license tagging system needed an overhaul. Swapping of deer tags between seasons and among licenses made the system confusing even to the Department personnel, who then had to try and explain it to the deer hunting public. Plus, one of the Department's goals under the new system was to set a season bag limit of three deer on public lands. A majority of the complaints received during public hearings regarding proposed deer regulations in 1993 were from public land deer hunters citing an overharvest and general lack of deer on the National Forests.

A welcome change to bowhunters will be the additional week added to the early archery season, which will now begin on the first Saturday in October. Deer of either-sex may be taken full season during both the early and late archery seasons. Also, an additional week has been added to the early muzzleloader season, with the early season now beginning on the first Monday in November.

### Black Bear

by Dennis Martin Bear/Furbearer Project Manager

Virginia's black bear harvest decreased during the 1992 hunting season after eight increases in the last 10 years. Once again, Rockingham County lead the state with 63 bears being harvested, (27)

(50) and Augusta (37).

The harvest decrease has been blamed on both biological facts and speculations. The 1992 mast production was the second lowest recorded since this data collection began in 1973. It is believed by most bear biologists that bears tend to hibernate earlier during mast failures, and bear hunters reported early denning. The 1993 hunting season will be monitored to provide insight into these population fluctuations.

## Statewide Deer, Bear, a

In addition, several studies are ongoing to understand more about factors affecting our bear population. For example, a study at VPI & SU continues to measure the effect of nutrition on female bears and reproduction. This study is continuing, but does suggest a direct link between cub productivity and late summer and fall food intake.

VPI & SU and the Shenandoah National Park in cooperation with the Department of Game & Inland Fisheries are also conducting research to identify the impact of the gypsy moth on black bear populations. Early figures indicate that some movement patterns have been observed, but reproduction apparently has been unaffected. The long term impact continues to be a concern and could likely decrease the carrying capacity of some habitats with some home ranges altered.

Our continuting relocation effort of black bears into southwest Virginia appears to be successful, although several bears moved out of

## nd Fall Turkey Harvest

	1990-1991			1991-1992			1992-1993		
County	Deer		Turkey	Deer		Turkey	Deer		Turkey
Kıng William	1301	0	263	1915	0	237	1929	0	172
Lancaster	459	0	6	573	0	4	737	0	11
Lee	507	0	89	802	0	124	896	0	171
Loudoun	3894	0	67	5771	0	41	6093	0	31
Louisa	1227	0	272	1484	0	166	1665	0	208
Lunenburg	1393	0	154	1437	0	73	1727	0	93
Madison	627	19	87	890	37	41	1013	32	42
Mathews	144	0	3	171	0	0	141	0	0
Mecklenburg	1352	0	103	1230	0	65	1647	0	69
Middlesex	210	0 5	11	291	0	19	292	0	15
Montgomery	1851 1448	6	259 224	1654 1229	41	149 100	2078 2015	7 10	191 182
Nelson	1187	0	63	1401	0	29			
New Kent Newport News, Hampton		0	7	176	0	0	1561 161	0	35 1
Northampton	544	0	0	787	0	0	880	0	0
Northumberland	692	0	10	730	0	8	827	0	18
Nottoway	1550	0	160	1528	0	82	1732	0	91
Orange	1146	0	117	1133	0	60	1340	0	72
Page	1185	45	44	1211	30	33	1291	50	49
Patrick	1427	0	209	1553	0	58	2043	0	120
Pittsylvania	3761	0	447	4715	0	293	4965	0	323
Powhatan	2361	0	225	2194	Ö	90	2554	0	101
Prince Edward	2038	Ô	342	2109	0	168	2529	0	177
Prince George	1533	0	68	1664	Ö	69	1833	0	62
Prince William	1079	0	25	1139	0	27	1014	0	37
Pulaski	1432	1	220	1516	3	121	1589	2	122
Rappahannock	1488	15	94	1505	18	52	1778	31	45
Richmond	881	0	19	874	0	27	880	0	33
Roanoke	610	0	99	602	3	66	747	3	78
Rockbridge	3297	12	309	3410	25	173	3948	10	270
Rockingham	4132	32	107	4048	64	105	3625	63	159
Russell	301	0	60	383	1	32	653	4	81
Scott	758	0	180	1343	0	210	1343	0	242
Shenandoah	3386	16	238	4195	18	157	3640	31	191
Smyth	1610	3	224	2407	5	178	1867	2	107
Southampton	4823	0		4820	0	0	5550	0	2
Spotsylvania	724	0	115	583	0	66	771	0	64
Stafford	1035	0	62	879	0	41	1090	0	94
Suffolk	1481	3	3	1549	3	0	1449	2	0
Surry Sussex	2007 2438	0	32 82	1974	0	33	2106	0	39
Tazewell	694	2	104	2382 1046	0 5	70 114	2884 1436	0 7	66 133
Virginia Beach	360	0	0	703	0	0	675	0	0
Warren	1535	18	27	1888	13	19	1971	17	28
Washington	668	1	128	813	0	90	967	0	90
Westmoreland	870	0	33	980	0	14	1157	0	35
Wise	427	0	94	328	0	74	380	Ω	78
Wythe	2344	0	313	2495	0	175	2841	1	158
York	630	0	9	679	0	10	731	Ó	10
Totals		_	_						
Totals	160,586	327	16,856	179,105	657	10,514	200,446	483	11,460

the study area or were killed on highways or by other means. Although the relocation efforts are being concentrated in portions of counties that are closed to bear hunting, the long term benefits of this program to all who appreciate this fine animal, hunters and nonhunters alike, should be realized in future years.

The 1993 bear harvest will be greatly influenced by both the weather and mast production. The reasonably mild winter of 1992,

early onset of spring without the traditional late frosts, plus the adequate spring rains in much of the bear range have provided an encouraging prescription for both soft and hard mast production.

The big game license offers the deer hunter an opportunity of harvesting Virginia's premier trophy during the second week of the gun season. Poor weather can cause extreme fluctuations in the bear harvest during this season because it is only a week long. But, both the bow

hunter and the bear/hound hunter have much longer seasons; therefore weather is much less likely to have as dramatic an effect. The hound bear hunter usually accounts for 1/2 the kill while the archer takes about 1/6. During the 1992 season, the bowhunter harvest was exceptionally high, amounting to almost 35.2%, with most of these bear coming from counties in which the Shenandoah National Park lies.

It is required that the sex organs remain attached to harvested bears to allow accurate identification of the gender of each animal at the time the animal is checked. This sex ratio is very important when evaluating population changes. Special check stations have been identified in each county and bears are to be checked only at these stations. A small tooth, located just behind the large canine teeth in the upper jaw, must be submitted to the check station as part of the checking process. Without the tooth the bear will not have been legally checked.

Predicting harvests is indeed a dangerous undertaking. In examining the harvest of bear over its entire history (since 1947), it has been common for dramatic decreases and increases in the harvest to occur, usually every two to four years. Therefore, it would appear that the 1993 harvest will closely equal that of 1992. A harvest of about 550 or possibly slightly less is expected.

## Upland Game Birds Forecast

by Gary Norman, Upland Game Birds Research Biologist

## Wild Turkey

Fall 1993-94: Fall turkey hunters should be encouraged by excellent reproduction this spring. Turkey populations are believed to be rebounding from the poor hatch last year, but this fall's harvest still is not expected to exceed last year's total of 11,460 birds.

Weather conditions last year were

particularly hard on Virginia's wild turkey population. June is our peak hatch month in Virginia, and record rainfalls were observed last year in May and June. The result was dismal reproductive success. Data collected indicates that recruitment of young turkeys into the 1992 fall population was one of the lowest on record.

The second hardship of 1992 was a general lack of mast crops. Mast conditions appear to have a significant impact on the number of turkey harvested. In times of mast failures, turkey range wider in search of foods and oftentimes rely on grasses and forbs in or near fields. At these times turkeys are more visible and hunters are generally more successful locating and harvesting birds.

Early in 1993, weather conditions continued to stress our turkey population with the "blizzard of 1993." While the opportunistic turkey is hard to starve, we are aware of some mortalities that occurred during the extended snowstorm. Nonetheless, the storm should not be a factor limiting this year's population.

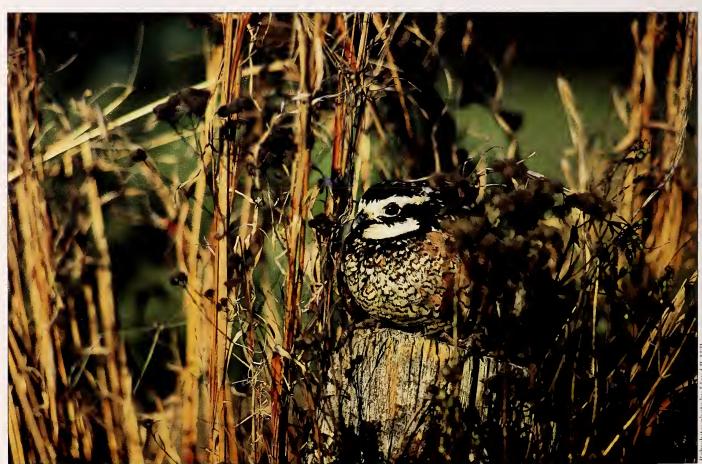
It is suspected that the weather this spring influenced a delay in nesting by wild turkey hens. Over the past three years, we found that most hens begin incubating their nests by the end of the first week of May. This year, however, nest incubation was delayed by 2-3 weeks. While we don't know the exact cause of this, there are several possible explanations. The most probable cause was the delayed onset this spring in the emergence of grasses and forbs otherwise termed the "spring green-up." Egg-laying and nesting require extensive amounts of energy, and the availability of spring grasses and forbs may be necessary to initiate these activities. It is interesting to learn that our observations of a delayed spring and delayed turkey nesting activities have been shared by other states.

The good news is that this year's

delayed hatch appears to have provided for favorable weather and good survival of young turkeys. Several of the radioed hens being tracked by Department biologists have been observed with 100% survival of their clutch at one month of age, which is exceptional. Typically, only 50% of the poults that hatch will survive the first two weeks. Overall, production for the spring of 1993 appears to be excellent and good numbers of young turkeys are expected this fall.

Spring 1994: Reproduction two years prior to any given spring gobbler season has a significant bearing on the season success, since most of the spring gobbling activity and harvest can be attributed to adult toms, two years of age and older. Reproduction during spring 1992 was below average, which suggests that fewer adult toms will be available in the '94 season.

One possible salvation for the '94 season might be the light spring har-



VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

vest observed in 1993. With the delayed '93 spring nesting, gobblers and hens were together throughout most of the spring gobbler season, which resulted in difficult hunting and lower than expected harvests. Overall, more gobblers probably survived the 1993 hunting season than expected and these birds may contribute to the '94 season.

Good hunting opportunities for spring gobblers can be found across the state, with the highest populations of birds being found in the tidewater region. Turkey populations throughout the state are believed to be below carrying capacities and the prospects for continued growth of populations and harvests are excellent.

#### **Ruffed Grouse**

Cooperating grouse hunters have provided information on grouse hunting success since 1973, and for the last three years they have experienced flushing rates slightly below the long-term average for the survey history. Last year, grouse hunters flushed 1.01 grouse per hour. These rates are similar to 1990 and 1991 rates of 1.03 and 0.98 grouse per hour, respectively. The number of young grouse in the hunters bagged last year was 47%. This figure indicates that recruitment of young birds in the population was better than the long-term of 38%.

Nonetheless, forecasting wildlife populations is a difficult proposition for any species, but especially difficult for grouse. Grouse populations are influenced, we believe, primarily by food resources (habitat), weather and predators. Grouse populations in Virginia last year found scattered food conditions in grouse range. As reproduction is believed to be linked to physical condition of grouse hens, the prospect for excellent reproduction this spring was unlikely. The delayed spring that affected wild turkey nesting probably also influenced ruffed grouse in a similar fashion.

Despite these less than desirable circumstances, the birds seem to be surviving very well and field obser-

vations of grouse broods through June have been encouraging. These observations lead me to speculate that spring wasn't particularly hard on this year's production. Based on several years of good reproduction in succession, good to excellent weather in the brood season and promising field observations through the month of June, average to above grouse populations can be expected this fall.

Note: Hunters interested in participating in VDGIF Grouse Surveys should contact: Gary Norman, Forest Game Bird Program Leader, P.O. Box 996, Verona, VA 24482.

#### American Woodcock

Populations of American wood-cock in the Eastern United States have been declining since 1968 at an annual rate of 1.8%. Since 1985, recent data has indicated that the decline has continued at the slightly lower rate of 1.5%. Concern for the status of the woodcock continues. However, the 1993 singing ground survey data indicates no change between last year's and this spring's breeding population levels.

Virginia woodcock hunters should keep track of weather patterns and key on storms and weather fronts that serve to initiate migrations of woodcock. Keep an eye out for probe holes and "splashings" in your favorite woodcock covers as signs of timberdoodle activity.

## Small Game Hunting Forecast

By Mike Fies Small Game Program Manager

## Bobwhite Quail

Quail hunters throughout most of Virginia reported an increase in success during the 1992-93 season. Statewide, the number of quail bagged per hunter hour averaged 0.38, up 27% from the miserable season of 1991-92. Regionally, hunter success (quail bagged per hour) was

greatest in the east piedmont region (0.41), followed by the tidewater (0.37), west piedmont (0.33), northern (0.28), and central mountain (0.19) regions. Favorable nesting conditions resulted in more juvenile birds available to fall hunters. Also, an unusually poor acorn crop caused quail to frequent the open field habitats where they are typically hunted, instead of woodlands or thick shrubby areas.

Quail hunting prospects for the 1993-94 hunting season do not appear promising. The "blizzard of '93" may have hurt late winter populations, although not severely. Early nesting conditions were favorable (due to generous amounts of rainfall during the late spring), but the hot and dry weather of late June and early July did not bode well for early summer nesters. If the drought continues, reproductive efforts will likely suffer and there will be fewer birds available to hunters this fall.

The best quail hunting of the 1993-94 season will be found in the tidewater and east piedmont regions of the state. Quail hunters in the west piedmont and northern regions will have to search more diligently to locate coveys. Poor hunter success is expected for the central mountain and southwest mountain regions. Overall, quail hunter success for the 1993-94 season will be comparable to last year, perhaps lower as the summer drought lingers.

### Rabbits

Hunters should expect to find excellent populations of cottontails this season. Rabbit populations have been steadily increasing since 1988 and early indications suggest that rabbit numbers are up again this year Mild winter temperatures and below-average snowfall accumulations prolonged the usefulness of weedy areas for escape cover and increased the amount of green vegetation available for food. An abundance of spring rain created lush nesting conditions, enabling rabbits to get an early start on their reproductive efforts.

Although cottontail numbers are expected to be high, experienced hunters know that populations are often localized and restricted to areas with suitable habitat. Public areas should be hunted early before intense hunting pressure makes rabbits difficult to find.

According to counts made by almost 1100 rural mail carriers throughout Virginia, the best rabbit hunting is likely to be found in the southwest mountain region of the state. Statewide, populations were up 19% from the previous year.

## **Squirrels**

Squirrel hunters throughout Virginia can expect to find fewer squirrels than they did last year. Last year's acorn crop failure resulted in a drastic decline in squirrel numbers. Food shortages caused many squirrels to abandon their home territories and overwinter mortality was higher than normal. Adult squirrels surviving the winter entered the breeding season in poor condition and fewer young squirrels were produced during the spring and summer months.

Although squirrels will be less abundant this season, they are likely to be found in habitats where most hunters would expect to find them. Early reports suggest that acorns will be plentiful this fall, and squirrels should be busy trying to recover from the "bust" of 1992. Populations should be highest in the northern, east piedmont, and tidewater regions where the effects of the acorn shortage were least severe. Squirrel hunters in the central mountain, southwest mountain, and west piedmont regions will have more difficulty locating squirrels for their Brunswick stew. During the early season, hunters who locate areas where hickory nuts are available will experience the greatest success. For those sportsmen wishing to harvest fox squirrels, populations of this species are greatest in Augusta, Bath, Bland, Highland, Rockingham, Russell, Smyth, and Tazewell counties. Moderate fox squirrel populations are also found in Botetourt, Clarke, Craig, Frederick, Giles, Pulaski, Scott, Shenandoah, Warren, Washington, and Wythe counties.

## **Mourning Doves**

by Patty Moore <sub>.</sub> Farm Habitat Program Manager

Dove hunters in Virginia can expect good dove hunting during the 1993-94 season. Although early spring rains delayed crop planting in some areas around the state, it is expected that corn silage will be cut the second or third week of August, which will attract early migrants and may hold them into September. The weather is a critical factor in both grain harvest and timing of the fall mourning dove migration.

Based on annual surveys conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, mourning dove populations in the Eastern Management Unit, which includes all states east of the Mississippi River and Louisiana, have experienced no significant changes over the last 28 years. Virginia's dove population is stable.

## Waterfowl Forecast

by Gary Costanzo Waterfowl Research Biologist

Habitat conditions in the prairie pothole region this year were generally better than last year. However, the breeding population index (the number of breeding pairs of ducks counted) declined from last year. So, although the habitat has improved somewhat this year, populations of ducks do not appear to have recovered enough yet to occupy the available habitat.

Blue-winged teal, redhead, and scaup are down significantly this year. Pintail are similar to last year and are still 54% below long-term averages, while scaup are 27% below and blue-winged teal are 23% below their 1955-92 BPI averages. Gadwall continue to be one of the few species doing well. Although

they were down slightly this year as compared to last year, they are 34% above their long-term average.

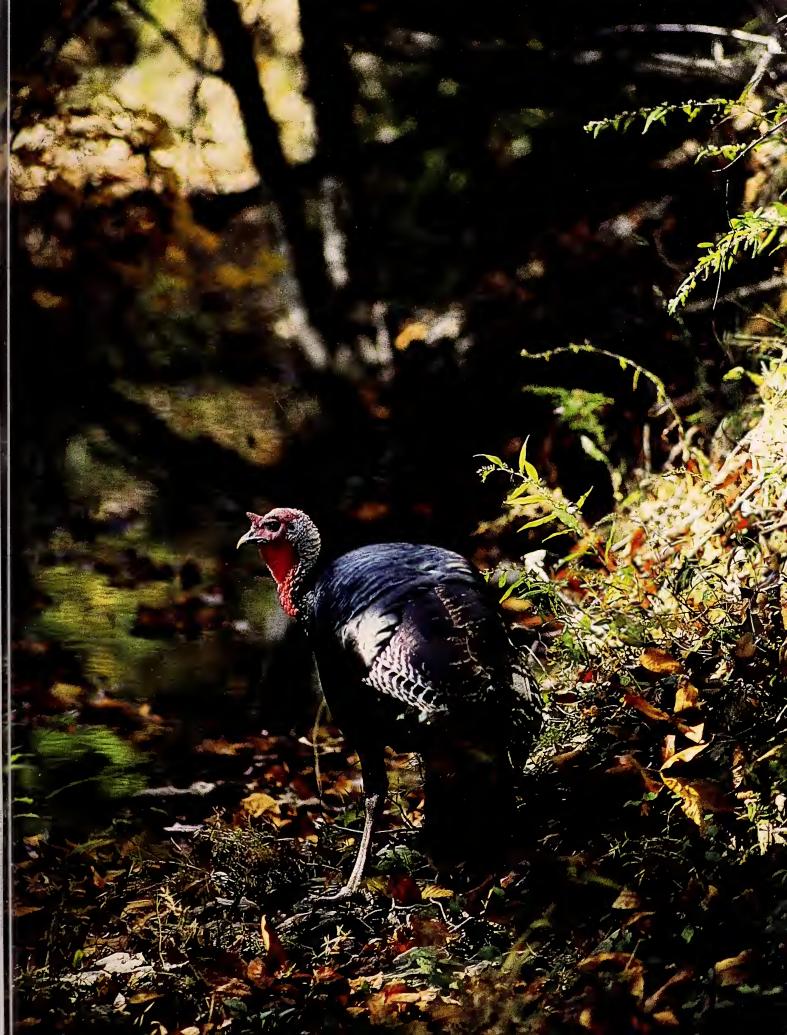
In the Northeastern U.S. and Canada, wood duck, black duck, and mallard production appears to be average to good. The cool, wet spring delayed nesting a week or two, but created favorable habitat conditions well into the nesting season. The dry summer conditions did, however, reduce brood rearing habitats later in the season and limited renesting efforts.

In Virginia, duck nesting and production followed the same pattern as in the Northeast. Wood duck nest box checks showed good numbers of nesting hens. The wet spring provided good water conditions throughout the early part of the nesting season, and local wood ducks, mallards and black ducks were still nesting in late June. However, renesting efforts were curtailed in July because of the dry, hot weather.

The local Canada geese that breed in Virginia also had a delayed but successful nesting season. These resident populations continue to increase in Virginia and other Atlantic Flyway states. Virginia has approved a special early season by permit only from September 7-15 this year. The season is limited to the northern-central portion of the state and portions of the lower peninsula where the greatest concentration of resident geese occur, and may help reduce some of the "nuisance' goose complaints in certain areas, along with providing additional waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Migrant Canada geese, along with snow geese, brant, and tundra swans appear to be having a much better year than last year. Surveys conducted in Northern Quebec and the high arctic tundra region showed good to excellent habitat conditions, and the forecast is for good to excellent production.

Snow geese, brant, and tundra swans appear to be having a good production year, also. This should help these populations recover from last year's declines. No changes are expected this year in seasons or bag limits for these species. □





### **Student Internships** Available in NRA **Hunter Services**

Student internship positions are currently available with the Wildlife Management Department and National Tours and Clinics Department of the NRA's Hunter Services Division.

Students interested in issues concerning state and federal legislation that affects wildlife conservation and hunting may wish to apply for an internship in the Wildlife Management Department.

Applicants should be students or recent graduates in a natural resource program, preferably with course work or previous employment in the field of wildlife management or biology. Applicants need sound communication and writing skills, and experience with hunting and firearms would be helpful. A small stipend and/or college credits may be available.

Duties include: answering correspondence, researching information, assisting with the Grants-In-Aid program and coordinating joint projects with federal agencies, local travel to meetings and general office

responsibilities.

Wildlife management intern candidates should send a resume, cover letter and a writing sample to Gary S. Kania, Manager, Wildlife Management Department, National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. No telephone calls will be accepted.

Interns with the National Tours and Clinics Department will help plan, coordinate and evaluate the NRA's 1994 Great American Hunters Tour. Interns will help train, schedule and supervise volunteers and assist tour managers and speakers. Interns will also maintain and complete required travel and accounting reports, sell and promote tour merchandise, and handle and set-up show materials and props.

Tour intern applicants should be recent graduates or current students in good academic standing (3.0 minimum grade point average), with interests in event planning, wildlife management, environmental sciences and/or grassroots coordination. Experience with firearms and hunting is helpful, but not necessary. Applicants need solid communication and writing skills and must be willing to travel across the country with tour staff for 10 weeks (January

through March, 1994).

College credit and possibly a small stipend may be available. To apply, submit a personal statement indicating how an NRA National Tours and Clinics internship will enrich your academic and professional experience and what you will contribute to the program. Send this with your resume and two (2) faculty references to: National Tours and Clinics, National Rifle Association of America, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 200363268 or call 202-828-6288. Deadline for tour intern applicants is October 15, 1993. Applicants will be notified by November 15, 1993.

## NRA Introduces New Upland Bird **Hunting Book**

The seventh in the NRA Hunter Skills Series, NRA's Hunter Services Division introduces its Upland Bird Hunting book. Upland Bird Hunting covers planning and preparation, equipment selection, gun dogs, shotgun and shell selection, shooting form, bird biology and behavior, hunting techniques, meat care, safety and more.

Michael Hanback, an avid bird hunter, former managing editor of *American Hunter,* and field editor for Outdoor Life collaborated with NRA to produce Upland Bird Hunting which covers its topic in 248 pages with over 175 illustrations.

Order Upland Bird Hunting (item No. HS5N5476) by sending only

\$5.00 (plus \$1.75 shipping and handling) to NRA Sales Department, P.O. Box 5000, Kearneysville, WV, 25430-5000. A hardbound edition (item No. HS5N5501) is available for \$14.95 (plus \$3.50 shipping and handling). Credit card orders may be made Monday through Friday by calling toll-free 1-800-336-7402. □



## 4-H Sports-A-Field Day

The VA 4-H Shooting Sports Program in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will host a State 4-H Sports-A-Field Day on October 22-23 at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox. Open to youths ages 9-19, their families, and adults interested in working with youngsters in the shooting sports, this event is designed as an introduction to the shooting sports. Events and activities will include instruction in smallbore rifle, shotgun, muzzleloading, air gun, and archery, along with a hunter safety trail, Seneca Run, and a variety of exhibits and demonstra-

No experience is necessary and a nominal fee will be charged for room and board for the weekend. This is the perfect opportunity to introduce your youngster to the shooting sports in a non-competitive, comfortable atmosphere accompanied by safe and expert instruction.

For more information, contact Mike Clifford, Extension Office, Nottoway, VA 23955; phone: 804/645-9135 or Richard Pulliam at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center, Route 2, Box 630, Appomattox, VA 24522; phone: 804/248-5444.

### Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program Takes Flight

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is implementing a new Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program to help biologists better manage the nation's migratory bird populations. The program, currently in effect in three states on a pilot basis, is to be phased in for the remainder of

the states by 1998.

Under this program, hunters will provide their names and addresses when buying state licenses to hunt migratory birds (waterfowl, woodcock, doves, pigeons, snipe, rails, and gallinules). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will then ask a sample of these hunters to provide a record of their hunting activity and success. This information will be used to improve current waterfowl harvest estimates and to develop harvest estimates for all migratory game birds throughout North America. A final rule outlining the effort appeared in the Federal Register on March 19, 1993.

Current national harvest surveys are based on names gathered through the sale of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly called Federal Duck Stamps, which all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older must purchase to hunt ducks, geese, or swans. But nearly half the 5 million migratory bird hunters in the United States hunt only non-waterfowl species, so they are not included in the survey. The Harvest Information Program will result in improved harvest records for all migratory game birds.

"Improved harvest records mean improved management capabilities," said Marshall Howe, acting Chief of the Office of Migratory Bird Management. "We will be in a more secure position to prevent depletion of birds in low supply and provide ample harvest opportunities for the more abundant species."

Wildlife biologists and administrators recognized the need for improved migratory bird harvest information several decades ago. In 1990, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies requested the Service lead the way by establishing a cooperative program with state wildlife agencies to obtain the needed information. California, Missouri, and South Dakota agreed to participate in a pilot program started in 1992.

The individual states will have several options for how they provide the names and addresses of their hunters. States may charge a small handling fee to cover administrative costs and compensate license vendors. The program will not generate revenue for the Service, and the Service will only use names and addresses provided through the program for its survey purposes.

"The Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program is just good wildlife conservation," Howe added. "The better information we have on all aspects of the birds and their habitats, the more effectively we can ensure that all species will be able to sustain healthy population

levels."

#### Eastern Shore Birding Festival Set

On October 9-10, the first-ever Eastern Shore Birding Festival will be held at the southern tip of Virginia's Eastern Shore, just north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Toll Plaza on Route 13. The area serves as a critical corridor for migrating songbirds as they are funnelled into this peninsula on the

way south to their winter homes.

Sponsored by local, state, and federal governments, private businesses and organizations, the birding festival is designed to promote the awareness and stewardship of the Eastern Shore's natural resources as well as the local economy.

Guided tours will be held to observe active bird banding and research, and wildlife and their habitat at Fisherman's Island and Chincoteague. Canoe trips and bike tours are also included. There will be childrens' programs, games and contests, along with exhibits by Eastern Shore artists, and workshops on arts and crafts, photography, and bird identification.



Destruction of the wild places where these frequent fliers nest, feed and winter is causing drastic declines in their populations. Please join us in making sure our migratory friends enjoy smooth flights. And happy landings.



#### Write:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (MBMO) Dept. of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20240

Celebrating 75 Years of Migratory Bird Conservation Because just winging it isn't enough. This promises to be a terrific event for the entire family. For more information, contact the Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Drawer R, Melfa, VA 23410; phone: 804/787-2460.

#### Letters

Nice article "Flights of Fancy" by Sarah E. White in your July, 1993 issue.

However, we at *Bird Watchers Digest* take exception to the advice about using "shockingly red powder reminiscent of Kool-Aid." The easiest, most economical nectar to feed hummers is a 1 part white sugar to 4 parts water (heat 1 cup of water to boiling, dissolve the sugar, add the remaining 3 cups cool water) and it's ready to use. Red is not necessary (as most commercial feeders have red parts)—and it is considered by some to be harmful to the hummers.

Your *Virginia Wildlife* is a favorite in our office. It's always informative and beautifully done.

Elsa Thompson, publisher Marietta, Ohio

Thank you for the dedication which you ran in the July edition of *Virginia Wildlife*.

Having known Lew Costello for more than 20 years, I had a great deal of respect for his abilities and talents. He was certainly dedicated to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

He challenged each of us to give of ourselves. He certainly gave of himself and for that we can be thankful.

> John J. "Butch" Davies Culpeper

### **Phone Number Correction**

In our August issue, we mistakenly published the wrong phone number for information about the September 25 and 26 Eastern Regional and State Big Game Contest. The correct phone number is: 804/220-3711.



Bald eagle; photo by David Vinyard.

# ...Give To Virginia's Nongame and Endangered Species Fund

any of Virginia's wildlife are in danger. Suffering from habitat loss and the dangers of pollution which threaten their survival, many species in the state are struggling to survive.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is responsible for the protection and conservation of all wildlife in Virginia, but we receive no state tax dollars, and we need your help to do our job. Help us fund critical research and management programs for the state's

nongame and endangered species by contributing to our Nongame Wildlife Fund, which is supported by voluntary contributions made through our state tax checkoff program and direct giving.

Please send in your tax-deductible check (made payable to the Treasurer of Virginia) to: Virginia Nongame Wildlife Fund-VW, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104.

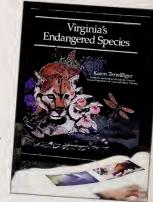


## Resource Guide Available On Virginia's Endangered Species

rder the only comprehensive resource guide on Virginia's Endangered Species for \$32.94 (softcover) or \$59.95 (hardcover). This 675-page guide identifies and describes more than 250 rare and endangered plants and animals in Virginia. Produced by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and other state natural resource agencies, this book documents the latest scientific information on Virginia's endangered species, information which is available in no other publication, anywhere.

Send your check plus 4.5 percent sales tax and \$3.00 ship and handling charges to: McDonald and Woodward Publishing Company, P.O. Box 10308, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0308. Phone: (703) 951-9465.

To order a Virginia's Endangered Species poster featuring the cover illustration on the book (*right*), please send a check for \$8 (made payable to: Treasurer of Virginia) to: VA Endangered Species Poster Offer, Attn: Diane Davis, VDGIF, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104.



## How To Cook Pigeon

ften on abandoned farms, and sometimes where farmers want to get rid of them, you may have the chance to shoot some barnyard pigeons. You might also find plenty of them at your next dove shoot. Be sure and ask permission to hunt if you are on private property or suspect they are someone's tame birds.

These pigeons, actually European rock doves, are delicious, yet tough. Very young pigeons will be more tender. This means pigeons are best prepared in a crockpot or pressure cooker.

#### **MENU**

Leek Clam Dip Savory Pigeons For Crockpot Mashed Potatoes With Spinach Cinnamon-Apple Mold Chocolate Oatmeal Torte

Leek Clam Dip

1 package (1.8 ounces) leek soup mix 2 cups sour cream

1 can (6-1/2 ounces) minced clams, drained

Stir soup mix and sour cream until well blended. Add clams and mix well. Chill, covered, for 2 hours. Stir before serving. Serve with assorted raw vegetables or chips. Makes 2-1/2 cups.

Savory Pigeons for Crockpot

4 to 6 pigeons Salt

4 strips bacon 1 onion, thinly sliced

2 large carrots, thinly sliced

2 ounces fresh mushrooms, sliced

1 bay leaf

1/4 teaspoon dried thyme leaves I tablespoon chopped parsley 1/2 cup white table wine or chicken broth

Salt pigeons inside and out. Cook bacon until crisp; remove and chop. Fry vegetables in bacon fat until lightly colored. Transfer vegetables to crockpot and place pigeons on top of vegetables. Add cooked, chopped bacon, bay leaf, and sprinkle birds with thyme and parsley. Pour wine or broth over all ingredients. Cover and cook on LOW heat for 8 to 9 hours. Allow 1-or 2 birds per serving.

Mashed Potatoes with Spinach

1 package (10 ounces) frozen chopped spinach

2 pounds russet potatoes, peeled and cut into l-inch cubes

3/4 cup milk

4 tablespoons margarine or butter, at room temperature

Salt

Freshly ground pepper

Nutmeg

Cook spinach according to package directions and drain well. In a medium saucepan, cover the potatoes with cold salted water. Bring to a boil, partially cover, and cook until tender. Drain the potatoes and mash them in the cooking pot with a potato masher or ricer. Turn on the heat and fold the spinach into the mashed potatoes. Gradually whisk in the milk and margarine. Season to taste with salt, pepper and nutmeg. Serves 4.

Cinnamon-Apple Mold

Marcia Coomer of Williamsburg served us this tasty salad with game birds.

1 cup boiling water
2/3 of a 2.25 ounce jar of red
cinnamon decorating candies
1 package (3 ounces) lemon gelatin
1 jar (15 ounces) apple sauce

Bring water to a boil and dissolve candies. Add gelatin and stir until dissolved. Add applesauce and mix well. Pour into individual molds or a 4 cup mold. Chill until firm. After removing from mold, place on a lettuce leaf. Serves 4.

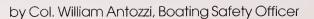
#### Chocolate Oatmeal Torte

Here's a dessert with no cholesterol and only 230 calories per slice.

4 egg whites
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/4 teaspoon almond extract
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup quick oats, uncooked
1/2 cup finely chopped almonds
1/2 cup flaked coconut, optional
3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
1 teaspoon powdered sugar
1 package (10 ounces) frozen

raspberries, thawed

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9-inch glass pie plate with nostick cooking spray or grease lightly. Beat first 4 ingredients until soft peaks form. Gradually add sugar, 1/4 cup at a time, beating until sugar completely dissolves and stiff peaks form. Gently fold in oats, almonds, coconut and cocoa. Spread into prepared dish. Bake 30 to 35 minutes. Cool completely. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Place raspberries in blender or food processor. Blend on high or process until smooth. Cut torte into wedges; top with sauce. Makes 8 servings.  $\square$ 





## **Assault on Batteries**

f boats have motors, they have batteries. Everyone knows about them. They are a familiar sight, because automobiles have them, too. On cars, they provide power for starting, lights, horn, radio, and various other electrical items, but on boats the demand on them is much greater. Batteries may run trolling motors, crank engines, bilge pumps, fresh water pumps, refrigerators, running lights, anchor lights, radios, depth finders and sound producing devices. For those reasons, marine batteries should be *deep cycle*.

Deep cycle batteries designed for marine use are different from car batteries because they have thick plates which enable them to recover rapidly after being drained of power, because they can go more deeply into a discharge cycle before going dead. They are usually able to run electrical devices for hours and still have enough power to crank en-

gines.

These batteries are able to be discharged and recharged without harm. Ordinary batteries cannot take that kind of treatment. They can be brought to extreme discharge and recharged, but those not designed for such extreme cycling will rapidly degenerate because each successive discharge leaves a layer of lead sulphate on the plates. Not all of the lead sulphate comes off during each recharge, so there is a gradual buildup which eventually gets so thick that it insulates the plates from the regular chemical actions and the batteries can no longer function.

Repeated discharge-charge cycles cause lead particles to leave the plates and collect in the battery case bottoms. When the particles collect in sufficient quantities, they provide circuits between the battery plates, resulting in discharged batteries which cannot be recharged. Deepcycle marine batteries are designed to alleviate this problem.

Batteries are badly damaged when overcharged. Engine driven alternators rarely overcharge batteries because their voltage regulators usually cut off charging when battery voltage indicates that they are fully charged. When alternators are unable to keep up with power requirements, it is necessary to use battery chargers. Most chargers are "trickle" types that never shut off completely. The result is continued charging of fully charged batteries. Charging batteries, even slightly, after they are fully charged, causes electrolyte to boil away, which shortens plate life. If batteries often need water, they are probably being overcharged. More effective marine type chargers, which cost more, contain circuitry which shuts them off completely when the batteries are fully charged. Most marine units are designed for charging multiple battery banks, but it is safer to charge each battery separately, because some may need more of a charge than oth-

When batteries are being used or recharged, the water in the acid solution tends to turn into its component gases (hydrogen and oxygen) which escape into the air, resulting in water loss. When that occurs, the batteries need the missing water replaced with distilled water. Proper battery operation depends upon having the full surface of the plates immersed in electrolyte. Electrolyte is a solution of sulphuric acid, which is extremely corrosive. Splashes on body or clothing should be rinsed immediately with lots of water. Care should be taken around batteries because they give off explosive gases. A spark could ignite them, with devastating results.

When the electrolyte level drops, so does battery performance. Maintenance must include electrolyte level inspection of every cell of every battery. Catalytic cell caps are available to recombine the hydrogen and oxygen gases, resulting in water which returns to the acid. The special cell caps function in such a way that very little water is lost.

Battery terminals must be kept corrosion free. Battery tops must be clean and dry. Chemicals or moisture on battery tops can create a circuit between the terminals which will drain the batteries.

Battery condition can best be checked by use of hydrometers. At 77° F, fully charged cells should read about 1.260. Hydrometers should be used directly after charging.  $\square$ 



## A Familiar Face

saw him from afar. A familiar shape standing at the edge of the dimly lit woodland path. I hadn't expected to come across him, here of all places. And it had been so many years....I walked closer and he turned his head to watch my approach. It was then our eyes met and I gasped. Soft and gentle, yet fiery and wild. I began to remember what had attracted me to him in the first place. And suddenly, jnst as before, I had to have him... on film.

I laid on my stomach beside him, but shyly he turned away. I told him it had been such a long time and his eyes were as beautiful as ever, but he withdrew even further into his shell. Finally, I decided that patience was the answer. I lay there and let him take his time adjusting to my presence.

While I waited, I looked around the forest. Above me, the wind blew around the stick nest of a red-tailed hawk with white fuzzy chicks stretching their first pin feathers in the afternoon sun. Around me, the cool yet dry forest floor was a quilt of shade and light, patches of filtered sun occasionally spotlighting a fern or flower. Beyond the forest, nearby meadows were simply gasping for an afternoon shower. Black-eyed Susans bowed to the heat.

I looked over at my friend to discover that he had been staring at me for quite some time, his long slender neck extended to get a good look at me. As I stared back, his eyes grabbed me again. "I must photograph those eyes before I let you go!" I gasped. His steady gaze betrayed no emotion. I decided to go ahead.

I pulled my camera around and casually took a light reading in his direction. Then slowly, I propped my camera on the ground between us. Fitted with a 100mm macro lens, I focused on the eye closest to me and chose the best aperture for the greatest depth of field I could muster in the diffused light beneath the trees.

Realizing that I needed a bit more light on the other side of my friend's face (I wanted even light across his face) I pulled out my handy dandy PHOTOFLEX reflector invented just for such a situation. Formed from bendable metal shaped into a circle and covered with material, this little reflector folds up into a 4" circle which slips into a zippered pouch. Easily stuffed into a pocket, this reflector dramatically unfolds into a 12" disk. The PHOTOFLEX comes in a wide range of sizes (the 12" being the smallest) as well as two color sewhite/silver lections; white/gold. I was using the white/silver model. One side is white and the other is silver. The

white side is used when you want a subtle "fill" light added to your subject. The silver side is used when you want even more light on your subject. The gold side produces a warm, glowy fill and is particularly lovely on people.

As I held the silver side near his face, I tilted it at a 45 degree

angle towards the sun and picked up enough light to illuminate his distinguished features.

Pressing a stick in the ground, I

leaned the reflector against it trying to keep the angle for the best "fill." Then, I could concentrate on my subject who by this point was pulling his shy routine again.

He wonldn't look at me, his gaze casting off to the trees beyond. He had always been the shy, non-confrontational type. I waited, questioning him softly about what he'd been up to and what had brought him to these woods. Finally, my patience paid off and he began to open up. Shooting frame after frame, I was mesmerized by the beanty of my old acquaintance's eyes. Though not normally thought of as the handsome sort, I found him enchanting—I always have and always will.

The next time you take a walk in the woods, by the ocean, or through the desert, take a look around and see if you don't have the good fortune to recognize a familiar face—one as enchanting as the eastern box turtle.



Found in a protected woodland area, this male eastern box turtle had the most beautiful red eyes. I just had to photograph them.

# Another Classic



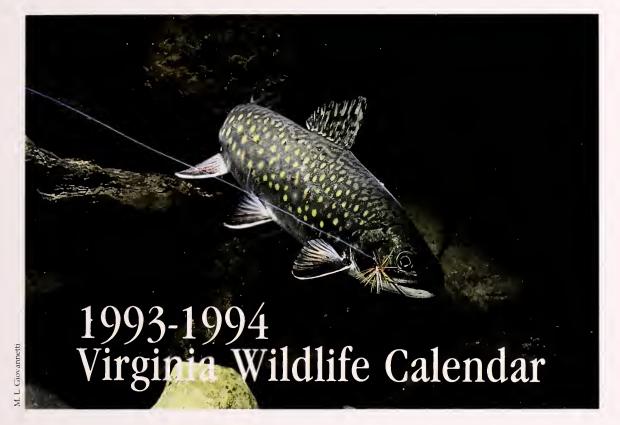
# For your collection

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has just revealed another classic in its Wildlife Conservationist license plate series! Now you can proudly display your commitment to wildlife with either a largemouth bass license plate or a mallard license plate. For every set of Wildlife Conservationist plates you buy, \$15 will be set aside for the Virginia Department of Game



and Inland Fisheries' Game Protection Fund. The money will be used for wildlife conservation management and research in the state.

Wildlife Conservationist plates are available from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Just fill out the mail-in form on the gray card in this magazine or stop by any DMV office. Pick up your classic plate and give wildlife a ride!



# Yours to Enjoy

We have a new look, and its yours to enjoy. More pictures (twice as many!) along with delightful descriptions of 12 animals to accompany stunning photographs by world-class photographers. These photos will bring you something new to enjoy each month, and they are so frameable that you may want to keep these birds, fish, plants and animals for years to come.

And don't forget all the information on our calendar pages—from the best times to hunt and fish, to the red letter days when the robins return in the spring and the redbuds begin to bloom.

Remember, our special 1993-94 Virginia Wildlife Calendar starts in September and runs through next August. And, it's only \$6.50! So, fill in the order blank on the gray page inside this magazine...

Do it today!



